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I AM AN AMERICAN



SARA CONE BRYANT

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I AM AN AMERICAN

BY

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Author of "How to Tell Stories to Children,"

"Stories to Tell to Children," etc.



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I

ONE day in the winter of 1917 the men on a ship of the American Navy looked out over the gray waves of the Atlantic Ocean and saw a lifeboat tumbling about in the stormy sea. They lowered one of their boats and rowed out to the tossing lifeboat. There was only one man in it. He was a Chinaman, and he was half dead with cold, hunger, and thirst. He was the only man left alive from a ship that a German submarine had sunk.

The American sailors lifted the Chinaman on board their ship and hurried to get warm clothes and hot tea for him. But to their surprise he would not drink. He put up his hands to push away the cup, and seemed terribly afraid.

At last one of the officers said, "I believe the poor fellow thinks we are Germans; he thinks we are giving him poison!"

So the officer said to the Chinaman, "I am an American. We are all Americans." He said it over and over. And after a moment the Chinaman's eyes grew bright. He reached out for the hot tea, and drank it eagerly.

He was no longer afraid when he heard the words, "I am an American."

Just before America entered the Great War in 1917, we had an American Ambassador in Germany named James Gerard. Because England and France were at war with Germany, it was his duty to take care of all the English and French people in Germany. He had to do what the English and French Ambassadors would have done if they had been there.

One day Mr. Gerard was riding in a motor out in the country with two German officers, and he saw some women working in the fields. He said to a

German officer, "Those women do not look like peasants."

The German officer said that all the women in that part of the country dressed very well. He wanted to drive on.

But Mr. Gerard thought the women might be French prisoners, so he got out of the motor and started toward the nearest one.

When she saw a man coming toward her, the young girl rose from her knees where she had been working and started to run away.

Mr. Gerard called out, "Do not be afraid. I am an American."

The girl stood still, and when Mr. Gerard came nearer she came to him, weeping. She told him she was a slave in the hands of the German Army. She begged Mr. Gerard to get help from America. She was very happy to talk to him. She knew that no American would hurt her.

To the poor young French girl, and to the half-dead Chinaman, those words, "I am an American," meant that here was some one who could be trusted, some one who would be kind.

What do these words mean to us?

When we say, "I am an American," we are proud

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II

THE Stars and Stripes fly over the White House in Washington because the President of the United States lives there, and the President is the head of our Government. The Stars and Stripes fly over the Post-Office in this town, too, because the Post-Office belongs to the Government.

What is "government"? Let us see.

Ten families move away into a new place, where there are no buildings, no laws, no police. In the ten families there are thirty children.

As soon as the families have made houses to live in, the fathers and mothers will say, "Our children must be educated, they must have teachers."

But each family cannot get a teacher for its own children. That would take ten teachers, and would cost too much. The fathers and mothers all join together and get one teacher for the thirty children. They choose a committee of three fathers and mothers. This committee finds a good teacher, starts a school, and tells the families how much each will have to pay.

Very soon the fathers say, "We must have a good road so the children can get to the school in winter, and so we can take our goods to each other."

No one family can make a road alone, so again they join together and choose a committee. This committee finds the best place for a road and gets it built and tells each family how much it has to pay.

After a while one of the fathers does not pay his bills promptly. One of the mothers lets her children stay away from school. Somebody drives a heavy team into the gutter and spoils the road. Every one is bothered by these things.

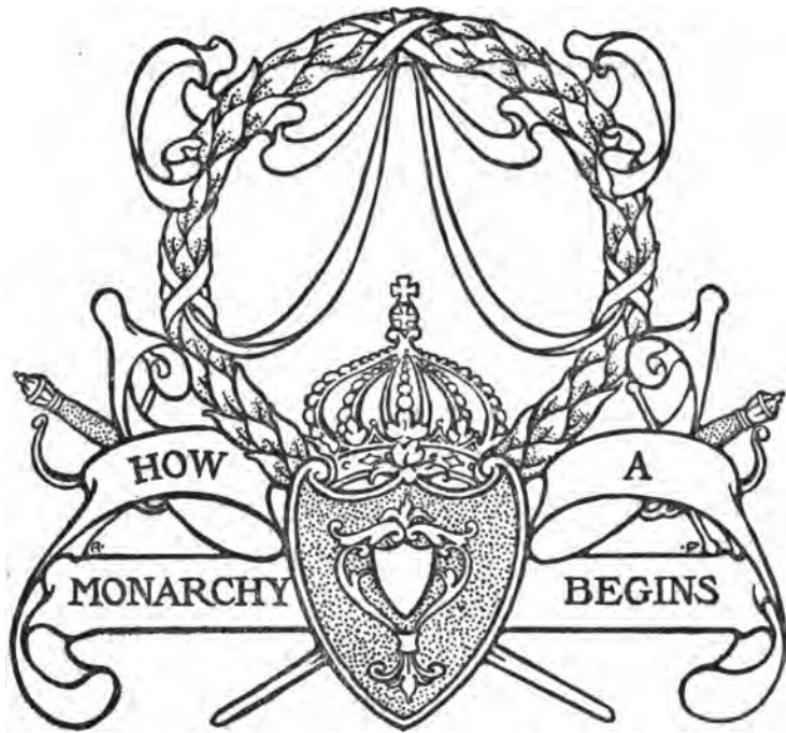
So once more the families join together, to get some rules made to live by, rules that will give all the fam-

ilies the most comfort. They choose another committee for this. They read the laws to the families, and the families say, "We will obey the laws. Any one who does not obey these laws shall be punished."

Then they choose a committee to see that the laws are kept.

Now the ten families have made a government. All these committees and laws are a government, a republican form of government.

A republic, a country governed by its citizens, is just like this ten families, only bigger. Its government is chosen by the people, to take care of the things that belong to all together. The government is the manager of the people's business.



III

WE have just seen a republican government when it is small and new. Now let us look at a monarchy, when it is small and new.

One family moves away into a new place where there are no buildings or laws or police. The father is very strong and the two sons are very strong. They build a house and live by hunting and fishing.

Soon a second family comes and makes a home not far away. The father is not a very strong man,

and he has no sons. He has brought a cow with him.

The first family goes in the night and steals the cow. When the man tries to get it back, he finds that three men with guns are against him. He can do nothing.

But across the mountains are other families, wild and fierce. They come and try to take the crops of both families. The three strong men say to the weaker one, "Fight with us, and we will drive the wild men away." So he fights with them and they drive the others off.

After this the weak man does not dare do anything against the three strong men, because he needs their help against the wild men. The strong men need his help, too, but they see that he needs them more than they need him, so they say, "You shall be our man. You shall work for us and fight for us, and in turn we will protect you from the enemy."

A few other families move into the wilderness, and they come to the first family and say, "You are powerful; help us against the wild men." But the three strong men care only for themselves. They make the others obey them and fight as they command.

The father of the first family puts his oldest son in

charge of the army. His other son manages the crops and the workers.

The three make a law that every man must take turns standing guard over their house. They make a law that every one must bring one third of his crop to them. They make many other laws. All the others obey these laws because they are afraid.

Now the strong family has made a government. It is the beginning of a monarchy, just as the ten families were the beginning of a republic. It is the management of the people's business, but not for the people. It is for the strong family and its friends.

The great kingdoms of the world began like this. They have changed very much since, and in all of them the people have gained some power, but they are all founded on the same principle, the principle that Might makes Right.

In a monarchy the people are governed by a ruling class. In a republic the people are governed by themselves. We call a monarchy an "autocracy;" we call a republic a "democracy." The republic is a free country, the monarchy is not a free country.



IV

I AM an American. I am a citizen of the American Republic, first and greatest in the world. My country is a Union of Free States, under one central government which is chosen by the people and in which all have equal rights.

The central government is called the Federal Government. It meets at Washington, the Capital of the United States. Washington is named for George Washington, the first President.

Each State has its own capital city with a capital building called a State House, where the State Government meets. Each city in a State has a City Hall where the City Government meets. And every little town in the State has a Town Hall where the Town Government meets.

The City Government is the manager of the business of that city, the things that belong to all the people together. The head of the management is called a Mayor.

The bigger, harder things, that belong to all the cities and towns together, are managed by the State Government. The head of the State Government is called a Governor.

The very biggest, hardest things, that belong to all the people everywhere, are managed by the Federal Government. And the head of the Federal Government, as we know, is the President.

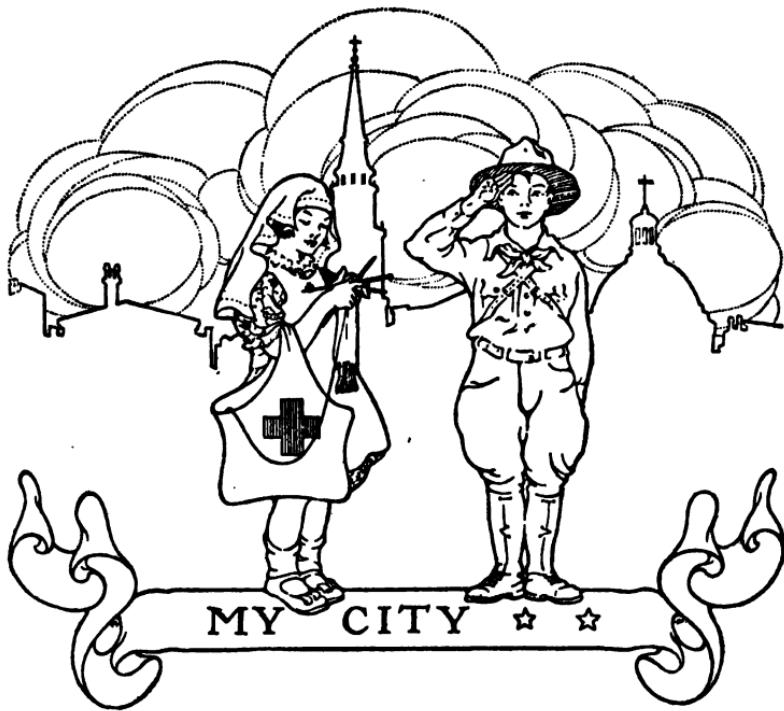
From the smallest town to the great city of Washington, all this management of the people's business is chosen by the citizens. It is a government by "popular representation."

The Union of Free States under a Federal Government, with popular representation, was all thought out for us by the wise men who made the first plan

of our Government. This was called the Constitution of the United States, and it has made our country the happiest and safest country in the world. Washington and thirty other men made it, and it has been made better since by other wise men. A constitution is a plan of government.

Our Constitution is a great treasure, a precious inheritance of Liberty. It has been studied and followed by free nations all over the world.

As a loyal American I will obey the laws of my City, my State, and my country. I will do my best to keep these laws fair and equal. I will obey and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.



V

THE Stars and Stripes fly over the City Hall in my city. The City Government, with the Mayor as its head, meets there to manage the city business. The Mayor is chosen by the citizens every few years, and the Aldermen — that is, the biggest committee — are chosen every few years. There are twelve Aldermen.

There is a great deal of city business, and many committees manage it.

The schoolhouses have to be kept in order and new

ones built. Teachers have to be chosen, books have to be bought, janitors have to be hired. Coal has to be bought, and many other things. Most of all, the studies of the children have to be kept useful, and enough like those of other towns so that it will do no harm when a family moves from one town to another.

The streets have to be mended and new ones made. The water pipes have to be cared for and the water kept pure.

The fire department has to be chosen and engines bought.

The playgrounds and the town parks have to be kept in order.

There must be a judge, and a court, and police, and a jail, to protect all the town from law-breaking.

All this costs much money. It is all paid for with the citizens' money, your fathers' and mothers' money.

All government is paid for with the people's money, whether the government is a republic or a monarchy. It has to be so, for there is no other money. So we see how fair it is that government should be by popular representation.

It is very important for the citizens to choose a good government to spend their money. A foolish

Mayor can waste your father's money and a dishonest committee can use the town's money for itself. When money is wasted in bad streets that have to be mended too often, or for poor books that do not educate the children, your father and mother do not get what they paid for.

The citizens can choose a good government for themselves, if they will. When there is a poor government, in a republic, it is the citizens' fault. A poor monarchy is not the citizens' fault, but a poor republic is.

A citizen of a republic should be ashamed to find fault with his government. If he thinks it is bad, he should join with other men who think as he does, and choose men he believes are honest and able.

As American children let us make up our minds that when we grow up we will take part in all our town business. And we will learn all we can now to make us wise and clever then.

We must remember that the little Town Government is the beginning of the great system of government that ends at Washington. Only by a wise beginning can we have a perfect system.



VI

ALL the choosing of men and committees is done by voting, by the "ballot." We hear a great deal about the "ballot box," and the "power of the vote." The vote is the most powerful thing in a republic, because the votes choose the men who govern us.

The kind of voting we do in the United States is very simple. On voting days we have all seen our fathers and mothers going to the different voting

places to cast their ballot. Some of the places are schools, but some are funny little buildings, like a portable garage, set up in the street.

When your father goes in to the voting place he finds a kind of little gate by a desk. A man sits at the desk and a police officer stands by the gate. One or two other men also stand there.

The man at the desk, who is called the "election clerk," marks your father's name and address in his book. Then your father takes a ballot from one of the men and goes through the gate into the room. Along the wall are booths like a telephone booth. He goes into one of these, and there he unfolds his ballot, where no one can see him.

The ballot is a slip of paper with names printed on it. The names are those to be voted on for office. Your father marks the names he wants to choose, he folds the ballot so that the names do not show, and comes back to the clerk. He hands the folded ballot to one of the election officers and the officer drops it into the ballot box. The clerk marks your father's name in his book. This is called recording his vote.

Now your father has done his part as a citizen to choose the representatives that make a Republican Government.

This way of voting was first planned out and used in Australia, and is called the "Australian Ballot." It is also sometimes called the "direct, secret vote." It is planned so that no one can meddle with a man's vote.

After the voting is done, the ballots are counted by a committee. The names of the men which are on the most ballots are elected. Those men have been chosen for the Government.

We can see, in a republic, that the men who govern are the men that the most people want. It is what we call a majority rule. "Majority" only means the greater number.

The country gets what the greater number wants. If there are two men trying to be Mayor, and one of them is a man who believes in concrete roads, while the other wants cheaper roads, the majority of the people decide whether they will have concrete roads or not. If the majority of people want cheap roads they will vote for the second man, and he will be elected. If the majority want concrete roads they will vote for the first, and he will be elected. The majority rules.

It is fair that the greatest number should decide, and it gives us a good kind of government. But since

the majority rule, the Government cannot be any better than the majority of the people are. So we can see it is most important that the majority of the people shall be sensible and honest.

The kind of men we have in our neighborhood decides the kind of representative we send to the Government. If we have educated men, clean and sensible and honest, we shall choose a good representative. If we have ignorant men, who drink and live foolish lives, they will choose a dishonest man, and he will do poor work. This is worth remembering.

America has public schools for all the children, so they may grow up to be clean, sensible, and honest; then the majority will be good citizens, not bad: good rulers, not bad. The American public school is the sound beginning of happiness, success, and service. It gives us all a chance to learn the things that make us rich and wise and good. Let us be loyal and diligent in it.



VII

THE American flag is red, white, and blue. It is easy to see from far off, as all flags must be. It is a beautiful flag.

The citizens of every country love their own flag and think it is beautiful because it means home to them.

English people love their flag, and French people love theirs. Their men have fought under it, and they themselves have lived under its shadow.

I must always respect the flags of other countries, and remember that they are dear to their citizens, just as the Stars and Stripes are dear to me.

I love the Red, White, and Blue, the flag of America, because it is my own flag, the flag of my own country, where I live, and where I shall some day be a governing citizen.

I love and reverence this flag, because good men and brave have fought under it for my country; good and brave men are fighting under it to-day.

But most of all, I love and reverence the American flag because it has always stood for right and freedom. It has never led an unjust cause, or waved above a stolen land.

It was born in freedom and honor, it has led many battles for freedom and honor, and it flies above a country which is fighting to-day for the freedom and honor of the world.

The flags of many countries have been taken out to war so that their rulers might take a piece of some other country, or might make a weaker country pay them money.

The flag of America has never been stained by such a war.

With God's help, I, as a citizen of America, will

keep it as clean as now. So far as I can help, it shall never be raised over a war for gain or cruelty, but only to protect the freedom and honor of men. I will guard it, I will fight for it, I will love it, for it has earned my love and loyalty.



VIII

THE American flag was born in freedom and honor in the War of the American Revolution. That was a hard and bitter time. The people who gave us this country had to pay a big price for that freedom and honor.

These people were colonists, that is settlers and the descendants of settlers. They had a new land to take care of, with fierce Indians on every side. They had rough work to do and much trouble to bear. But

they were a strong people and made the best of what they could not help. Winter and loneliness and hard work they took cheerfully.

But something came into their lives that no true man or woman takes cheerfully. That was tyranny. The colonists were governed in England. The English Government of that time, with King George III at its head, was selfish and unwise. It began to treat the American colonists not as free men, but as slaves. It tried to get all it could in taxes and service from them, but it gave them no rights in return.

When the colonists sent letters to explain what was wrong, the Government paid no attention. The laws grew more unfair and the taxes grew heavier, and yet the Americans had no part in making the laws or spending the taxes.

Wise Englishmen in England went to the Government and said, "Englishmen will not bear such treatment, these colonists are Englishmen; beware!" But the Government of King George III went from bad to worse.

Among the colonists were many able men, used to thinking for themselves. They said, "We will not obey the laws unless we have a part in making the laws. We will not pay taxes unless we have a part in

deciding the taxes. *Taxation without representation is tyranny.*"

Those words are important; they are a "principle of free government."

The colonists believed this principle so firmly that they got ready to fight against England, to make her give them representation. But soon they saw that they would be risking their lives in war to get only a little bit of freedom. So they decided to fight for real freedom. They decided to make America a free country, not a colony at all.

The wisest men of the country got together and made a Declaration of Independence. It was written by Thomas Jefferson, and was adopted by Congress July 4, 1776. When it was read out to the people, the great bell in the steeple of the Philadelphia City Hall rang loud and long. Ever since we have called this the Liberty Bell.

The Declaration of Independence is famous all over the world to-day. We must all read it and be able to tell about it. We cannot join the Girl Scouts or the Boy Scouts until we can tell all about it.

The Declaration of Independence said that America should be a free country, making its own laws and governing itself. It should have all the rights of a

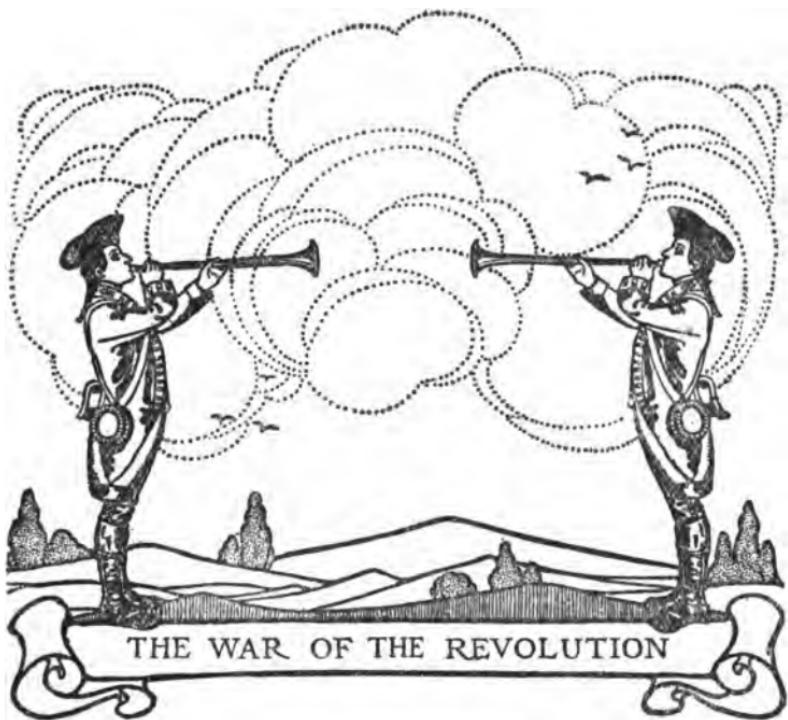
free country, and if any country interfered it would fight for those rights. It should be called the United States of America.

In every country there were men and women who wanted to be free, but who were helpless against their strong governments. Even to speak of freedom often sent them to prison or death.

When they heard of the American Declaration of Independence, it was like a new star in a dark sky, a new music in a silent land. The sound of the Liberty Bell rang round the world.

Let us thank God, as these men thanked him, for the American Declaration of Independence. Let us as children learn to say the brave, solemn words with which it begins, and believe them with all our hearts.

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”



IX

ENGLAND sent an army to get back her colonies. And the colonists fought. Eight long years the war went on. The English Government sent more than fifty thousand soldiers to fight the Americans. That was a large army for those days.

But more than half the soldiers were not Englishmen. Englishmen did not want to fight against the English colonists, whose cause was so just. So George III hired twenty thousand German troops from their

masters, and these Germans crossed the ocean under English leaders.

We may be sure these poor German soldiers did not want to fight against us. They had to go where they were sent. They belonged to their German masters, for in Germany the government was like what we read of in Lesson II.

But the Germans were trained soldiers, and they were told many false stories about Americans, to make them willing to fight. They made a hard army to beat.

The war was fought all up and down our American coast, in battles North and battles South, by land and sea. We have wonderful stories about it in the histories we shall read in a few years.

The English soldiers fought well from a sense of duty. But that was a weak feeling compared with what the Americans were fighting for. To the Americans their liberty was as dear as the air they breathed and the homes they loved. Every American soldier fought for liberty with all his heart.

A righteous cause makes a mighty army, and in the American Revolution a great cause made a mighty army out of a small and untrained one.

Next to the power of a great cause the war was

won by brains. The English had more men than the Americans, more ships, and more money. But the Americans had some of the ablest generals any country has ever had, and the American soldiers fought with their hearts and heads as well as with guns.

As we all know, the American Commander-in-Chief was George Washington. With him were other men of the same splendid kind from North and South. Philip Schuyler was there, and John Stark, Anthony Wayne, and Henry Lee, who used to be called "Light Horse Harry." Our teachers will tell us where to find exciting stories about these men, and Washington's other leaders.

George Washington and these able commanders knew very well the big English army could beat the little American army if they stood up face to face and shot at each other. But they were not so silly as to do that. No, they kept leading the English into traps; in parts of the country only the Americans knew about. They fooled the English generals, and fought when they were in a good position. When they were in a bad position they got away while the English slept.

More than once the English thought the war was

over, and that Washington was beaten, only to wake up next morning and find themselves in a new trap. They called Washington a fox. Indeed, he had all the cleverness of a fox, with the courage of a lion.

Little by little he wore the English generals out. He beat them in one place after another, until at last he beat them for good.

But the Americans came near losing, more than once. It was not because they had a small army and little money. It was because of treason!

A false friend, an Englishman who pretended to be a friend of Liberty, was made an American general, and he planned to betray the American army to the enemy. His name was Charles Lee. He failed.

Worse than a false friend, one of the American leaders, a truly fine soldier who had fought bravely, turned traitor through anger and jealousy. His name was Benedict Arnold. He too failed. But both nearly succeeded.

There is no enemy so deadly as a false friend, and no danger so great as treason. Treason means turning against your own country in secret, and plotting with the enemy so that they may win. A man who plans treason betrays his country as Judas betrayed Jesus.

Washington had to struggle against treason. And in the war of 1917 our President and our generals had to struggle against it. Many false friends and some base traitors were working in America during that war.

As American children let us pray that our country may forever be delivered from treason as she was in the Revolutionary War. Let us pray that no American shall yield to the temptation of enemy gold, or enemy flattery, and so leave his name blackened for all the centuries to come, as Benedict Arnold's was blackened.



X

THE Stars and Stripes, the flag born in freedom and honor, were raised for the first time over the Capitol of the new country in 1789. They flew for the first President of the United States of America, George Washington.

George Washington was the General of the little American army that won the war, as we know. And when the war was over the people knew they could find no other man so fitted to lead them in their new

life as Americans. So General Washington became President Washington, and he was as fine a President as he had been General. He was so wise and noble a President that he is called "the Father of his Country."

Some of the best stories in American history are the stories of George Washington as a boy. We all read them. There is a good story about his riding a colt, and there are fine stories about his fighting the Indians.

Even as a boy George Washington was the soul of honor; he said what was true, and kept his word. No one could frighten him into a trick or a lie.

He was brought up on a large plantation, and was taught to manage his workmen, and to master himself. He had a good education, both in books and in living. His mother was a fine wise gentlewoman, and their home was very beautiful.

All the good things American mothers and fathers wish for their children were his; a healthy outdoor life, study and play, money enough, home love, and high ideals. When the time came that his country needed him he had this true wealth to give: health, wisdom, ability, and character. And he put them all at his country's service.

George Washington was able to solve the hard problems of the War of the Revolution. He was also able to solve the problems of a new kind of government. That was very hard, for the men in the government were all new at governing, and all had their own ideas. But the President was very, very wise; he always saw what must be done. And he was firm as a rock; he was a tower of strength.

All the world says that George Washington was one of the ablest generals in history, and one of the great statesmen of the world.

America is very fortunate that her first President was a truly great man. Some countries have for their first hero only a fighter. But George Washington was a great general, a great statesman, and a very good and modest man besides. He was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

As American children we may be proud that our country was fathered, not by a robber or a tyrant, but by a true Christian, a great American gentleman.



XI

THE Stars and Stripes could never have floated over a free country if America had had only one great man. George Washington was not the only brave and able man who served us well. There were so many splendid Americans that not even when we read history can we know them all. But we shall read interesting stories of many of them.

Each one gave his own gift to Freedom. The wise gave wisdom in planning. Those who had the gift of

speech, like Patrick Henry, fired the courage of the others. Those who had military genius led the armies, and those whose best gift was obedience made the mighty army to be led. Washington was helped in winning the war by some of the best commanders in history. It is thrilling to read how they took the English by surprise, over and over again, and made the best of their small numbers by using the land right.

Some of these commanders were as young as our brothers who went every day in 1918 from the American camps to France. American boys must all read the stories of George Rogers Clark and of Paul Jones, who were hardly more than boys, but who fought wonderfully.

Washington was helped also in making the Constitution, the plan of our Government, by many wise and unselfish men. We shall read about James Madison and Alexander Hamilton and many others.

Alexander Hamilton had a hard task. He was the Secretary of the Treasury, and there was little money in the Treasury, and there were many different ideas about spending it. But Hamilton taught the little new country how it must manage its money affairs if it wanted to be respected by other countries. He did notable service.



en, and the others
one truly American
such "common sense."

they see things as they
intend to do. Washington
was one of the noble men of his day, and
other. To be sensible and
wise is of greatness.

our country were made by
men, under a great leader whom
whom they followed. They all
wanted to live in a free country. They
believed in God, that God helps a righteous
people. They had the same purpose, to serve the
country with all their strength, and to die for

democracy. That is what a republic
is. Good, sensible and honorable people work to-
gether, electing leaders chosen by themselves. They
follow these leaders and follow them, not because they
are good leaders, but because the leaders are their own
choice, doing the will of the people.
America forever holds fast to this first Article of
the Declaration of Independence. Thinking, we shall conquer all enemies
and we shall be free from the enemy of that day. Let us

that America may remain a sensible and honorable people, not led into evil by folly, but choosing wise leaders and following them. Let us all be eager to serve our country, and even to die for her if need be.

Little American citizens must use their common sense with all their might, so that it will grow into real brain power. To be foolish is to be always in danger of being led into evil; to be sensible is to be ready to lead others out of danger.

We little citizens must follow the leaders chosen for us by our fathers and mothers. We must learn as children to be unselfish and obedient, so that when the time comes for us to serve greatly, we may serve with nobility as Washington served.



XII

WHEN the Declaration of Independence thrilled the hearts of men who loved freedom, and the Liberty Bell rang for America's freedom, it was heard round the world, and it made friends for the Americans all over Europe. Patrick Henry had said, "There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us."

Patrick Henry was right. Glorious, unselfish

friends were raised up for America, men who sailed from Europe, sword in hand, to battle for Liberty with us. These men had nothing to gain for themselves. They were not Americans. They risked fortune and life itself to fight with men they had never seen, against an enemy they had never seen.

Why?

Because, oh, children, let us never forget, the love of liberty is a great and sacred love, the faith in man's brotherhood is a great and sacred faith. The noblest men of the world have been willing to die for it. It is greater than the love of power or the fear of death. It is a part of man's religion.

The unselfish heroes who sailed from Europe to fight with the Americans against England showed us that other men believed in freedom and democracy; other men also could say, "Give me Liberty or give me death."

Let us remember the names of these men, and be grateful to their memories. Freedom has no race; she is of all races. Where the love of Freedom burns in the heart, all men are of one family. These men came from different countries to strike a blow for us, and what they did shows the natural brotherhood of free peoples.

We have all heard of Lafayette. He was a French nobleman, a young French gentleman of wealth and a brilliant mind. The Marquis of Lafayette was not twenty; he was as young as the American college boys who were ambulance drivers in France in 1916 and 1917. He bought a ship and fitted it up with his own fortune, and sailed to America. And here he offered his services as a volunteer without pay.

When we think of the service Lafayette did us, we must also think of the Americans who have gone to serve his country in her hour of need. When the freedom of France was attacked by Germany in 1914, many young American men did not wait for America to join the war. They went to France at their own expense, and said to the French Government, as Lafayette had said, "We will serve as volunteers without pay."

Many of these young men were in the Lafayette Escadrille, the famous flying corps of Americans serving for France.

Not all these American heroes have come back to their own country, as Lafayette happily went back to his. Some died across the sea, for Freedom's sake. One of the first and bravest of them said, just before he died, "I pay my debt to Lafayette."

These are noble and beautiful words, and many of the other young American soldiers have said noble and beautiful words for us to remember. Our teachers will find for us some of the poems written by these young Americans who are paying our debt to Lafayette.

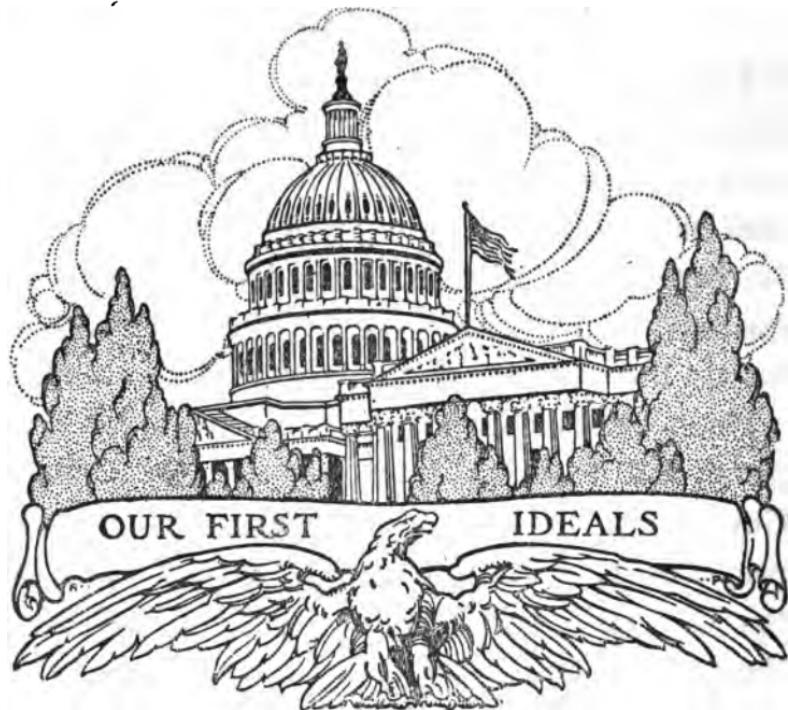
From another country, Poland, came two more men noble of heart and title. They were named Kosciusko and Pulaski. They, too, offered their swords to freedom on American soil. They had reason to love freedom, for Poland had been taken away from her own people by stronger countries around her, and had been divided among them. Polish people no longer ruled themselves.

When we think of Kosciusko and Pulaski, we like to remember that America began to pay her debt to Poland when she entered the Great War in 1917. America promised to defend the rights of small nations against tyranny. Poland's freedom was one of those rights which the Allies were fighting for.

From Germany also came friends of Liberty. Johann Kalb, born in Bavaria, but later belonging to the French Army, came with Lafayette to fight for us. He gave his life for American liberty on American soil. And a Prussian officer named Von Steuben helped Washington drill his army at Valley Forge.

When America entered the war against Germany, President Wilson remembered the love of liberty in these men and in our many devoted citizens of German birth, like Carl Schurz, who worked all his life for American patriotism. He said, "We have no quarrel with the German people. We have no feeling toward them but one of sympathy and friendship."

He meant that we were fighting, not to kill Germany, but to kill the tyranny that the German Government stood for. Many friends of the German people believed with him that our victory would set the German people free from tyranny, and bring them at last to the very freedom and brotherhood their armies were trying to destroy.



XIII

THE American flag, the Red, White, and Blue, still keeps the color of England in its red stripes, although the white stripes come between to show that this country separated from England.

In the same way America keeps the old English color in the ideals of her men and women. We must never forget that most of the people who helped to found this country were of English blood. Before the time of the Revolution, and before the coming of the

other races, the English had begun to make our country what it is. Those first settlers and colonists were English, with a smaller number from Holland.

George Washington was of English blood. Samuel Adams and John Hancock were of English blood. Philip Schuyler was of Dutch blood.

Although the English Government was false and weak, and fought against us, English love of liberty and English strength of character was true and powerful, and conquered in us. The English in England were also struggling for liberty, but they had to move more slowly because England was a very old country, and had many old ways to change.

English ways of thinking and living were the first American ways of thinking and living, and the character of the English is still in the character of Americans.

All over the world, English, Dutch, and American people are clean people, independent people, and people that love fair play. All over the world, English and American people keep their bodies and minds clean. All over the world, English and American people say, "We will think for ourselves, no one shall think for us."

We shall see that many other races brought their

gifts of mind and heart to America later. But the foundation stone of American character was laid by the English.

I am proud to remember that my country was founded by people who loved cleanliness, honor, and fair play. Fair play is justice, and justice is the very first stone in the building of a republic. I will do my best to keep the American Republic true to her first ideals of justice and honor.

As an American child, I will tell the truth and keep my word. I will keep my body clean. I will not take advantage of a smaller child, or cheat in games, but I will play fair. I will be a true American.



XIV

THE American flag, the Stars and Stripes, was made by a woman. Her name was Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, and her friends called her Betsy Ross. She made the first flag for General George Washington, the first President of the United States of America.

Men and women together are citizens of the American Republic, our United States. Together they work for the good of the country, and are equally valuable. The flag belongs to both.

In the past all countries have thought women were not so valuable as men, and they have not given women an equal chance to be free and useful. But now most of the countries are learning that men and women are equally valuable, and must have equal rights. The Great War has taught this, for in all countries the women have worked and suffered with the men.

In Russia the soldiers were worn out with fighting against an enemy better armed than they. The Russian army was cheated by its own Government, and did not have ammunition enough to shoot. At last the soldiers became discouraged and many would not fight.

When the Russian women saw that Germany was going to conquer their country, a brave woman named Madame Botchkareva called on her sisters to become soldiers with her. Hundreds of Russian women and young girls came to her and formed themselves into a battalion. They were drilled, and fought bravely against the enemy. They were called the "Battalion of Death," because each woman soldier gave her word to her commander that she would conquer or die. Each carried a little bottle of poison to take if she was captured.

These Russian women surely did as much for Russia as any man.

British women have given a shining example of heroism in the war. One Scotch woman doctor, Dr. Elsie Ingles, will not soon be forgotten. She had been taking care of a whole village of sick Serbian soldiers. Suddenly the German army came nearer, and all the wounded soldiers were in danger.

Dr. Ingles got them out of the country. She led those thousands of Serbian men on a march of months, out of Roumania, across Russia, way up to the northern port of Archangel, and at last got them on ships across to England. She found food for them, she found roads for them, she nursed them when they were sick, and encouraged them when they were in despair.

When her little army reached England, Dr. Ingles was so worn out that she died after a week's illness. But those eight thousand Serbian soldiers were able to go to France, to fight for England and Freedom! Surely no British man did more for his country than Elsie Ingles did.

France has many women who have done noble and heroic work in the war. Books of stories are being made about them. One young French girl did something which sounds like a fairy tale.

This young girl's name is Marcelle. She lived in a small French town before the war. Her father owned large quarries there, and she had always played about the passageways and underground chambers.

The little town was taken by the Germans. Marcelle's father was killed; every one she knew was either killed or got away from the village.

But Marcelle would not run away. She knew that many French soldiers were hurt in different parts of the village, so she hid herself in the underground passageways, and at night she went out and found the hurt soldiers, and nursed them. She got ever so many safely into her quarries, where she took care of them. Then she helped them escape out of the village.

Twice the Germans caught her. Twice they had her standing before their firing squad, to be shot. But both times the French gunners got near to the village just in time to frighten the firing party.

At last the French took the village again, and she was safe.

The French Government asked Marcelle to come to Paris, to a famous hall, to be decorated for service to her country. The grand hall was full of famous soldiers and people from all parts of the country.

Every one stood up, and all the soldiers saluted the modest little French girl when she walked up to be decorated. They knew that no man could have been braver or more unselfish for France than she was.

When America entered the war the young men came forward and said, "We will fight, send us." Their sisters came forward and said, "We will serve, send us." For every need of a woman that the Government or the Red Cross or the Y.M.C.A. had, there was a woman ready. They have served with hands and hearts and brains, and some of them have served with their lives.

When I grow up to be a voting American citizen I will try always to be fair to both men and women. I want the Stars and Stripes, which were first made by a woman, to float over a country where women and men together are free and equal.



XV

THE American flag, the Stars and Stripes, has not been easy to keep clean and safe. Everything that is very precious has to be worked and fought for all the time. Even liberty cannot be got once for all and then left alone.

The liberty of the American Republic has had to be fought for again since the first time. The first time was the War of the American Revolution, as we have seen. The next time was the American Civil War, in 1861.

Sometimes a nation is attacked by outside enemies,

but sometimes enemies grow up inside the nation. If the citizens grow selfish or get false ideas, they can become the most dangerous enemies of all.

This happened in our country. Some of the States said that liberty meant that every State could decide all things for itself, and need not obey the Federal Government. These States said also that their citizens had a right to keep black men as slaves to work for them. So in the midst of the country that had once fought for freedom, men were keeping other men out of every kind of freedom.

The United States of America said: "We are not many separate countries; we are one country. Every State must obey the Federal Government." And the United States of America also said: "This is a free country, no man shall own or control another man, black or white."

So the Civil War was fought, to decide whether the United States should remain one country or not, and whether every man in the country should be free or not.

The Federal Government — that is, the United States of America — won the war. A free and united country was once more bought for us by the suffering of other people.

We must always remember that our freedom de-

pends on unity. A lot of separate selfish States can be robbed or spoiled like a lot of weak and selfish children. A union of free States, working each for all and all for each, is a mighty Nation, unconquered, and truly free.

We must always remember, too, that no one is free if all are not free. If one citizen is abused, any citizen may be abused. As an American child I will learn carefully what "Union and Liberty" mean, and will keep in my heart the love of this country, which gives me both.

When I am a voting citizen, I will protect with all my might the sacred unity of this Nation, and the sacred liberty of all its citizens.



XVI

THE Civil War, that kept our Stars and Stripes the flag of a united country, gave America a great hero, Abraham Lincoln.

The Nation remembers other heroes of that sad hard time. General Grant was the chief commander who won the war for us. A great soldier and a splendid man he was. We honor his memory. And many others there were, brave and wise and unselfish.

But Abraham Lincoln is America's hero in a pecu-

liar way. His character is an example of ideal democracy; his thoughts and beliefs are the thoughts and beliefs that America herself lives by.

A good way to know what America is and wants to be, is to study the life of Abraham Lincoln. The best answer to any person who calls us a nation of money-lovers is to say: "We are the Nation that follows Abraham Lincoln."

When we read the life of Lincoln we find that he was well used to trouble. Hard things he had to do and bear all his life long. Never was anything made easy for him. No child in America to-day sleeps as cold as Lincoln did, or eats such poor food as Lincoln did in childhood; no child in America to-day has to go without schooling and books, as he did.

But hard things only made Lincoln strong to bear burdens. To have no books only made him more eager to learn. Sorrow only made him kind.

Poor and lonely and untaught, he built up a grand manhood, and the things he built on were the things that every man may have: they were faith in God, absolute honesty, patience to learn, and charity to all men.

When Lincoln became President he was so wise that the finest scholars of the country were glad

to learn from him. He had got his wisdom by patient study of the best books, and by patient close thinking.

Besides wisdom, he had splendid courage. It was a time like our time now, when people disagree about everything, and every public man has bitter enemies. Lincoln was slow to decide, because he could see so well just how other people felt about things, but when he had decided what was right, he did it, although all the world seemed against him.

But most of all, Lincoln had great charity, great kindness. This never failed, even when the world was most unkind to him. He was kind to all people, friends and enemies both. He was kind to animals and even to plants.

When little children wanted to see him in a crowd, he stopped on his busy way and shook hands with them. When the soldiers of the Union lay dying in hospitals, he took time from his never-ending work to sit with them and to write to their mothers. When at last the Union conquered, and the question came, "What shall be done to the States that made the trouble?" Lincoln said, "They have suffered enough; let us remember the command of Scripture, 'Judge not that ye be not judged.'"

Abraham Lincoln is the representative of democracy, our true American hero. He was wise, sincere, powerful, and kind. He was of the people and for the people, like the Government he believed in and upheld. He had no special privilege; he wanted nothing for himself that all men might not have. He was a great American.



XVII

BECAUSE Abraham Lincoln was wise and sincere, he knew that nations like persons make mistakes. Good nations sometimes sin against the laws of God. He knew that when a nation sins against the laws of God, it must suffer, just as each of us suffers for sin.

The American Nation had sinned against the Divine laws of Brotherhood and Freedom when it allowed slavery. It suffered deeply in the Civil War, which almost tore it apart. But the good in the heart

of the American Nation overcame the evil, and put the wrong thing away.

Abraham Lincoln knew that the American Nation had sinned and was sorry. And because he was wise and sincere, he said that the Nation must do what a person has to do when he has done wrong. The Nation must ask God's forgiveness.

The United States Senate passed a resolution asking the President to set apart a day for national prayer and penitence. Lincoln did this, and April 30, 1863, was made a day of fasting and prayer.

Almost everything that Abraham Lincoln wrote is very beautiful. This proclamation is so beautiful and true that we understand America better if we read and understand it. Let us ask mother or teacher to read these sentences out loud to us, and explain the hard words. This is only part of the proclamation:—

“It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. . . .

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years,

in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. . . .

"It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. . . ."

The spirit of these words is the spirit of America, the spirit of real democracy.

A democracy is ruled by all the people together, the every-day people. The every-day people are not perfect, they make mistakes. But they are not so foolish as to think they are perfect. When they have made a mistake, they are willing to say so and to start again. When they find they have made a poor law, they are willing to change it. For the every-day people love goodness. They want things to be right.

This is one of the best things about a democracy. We can change the bad things, we can keep on improving our country. In history we find that a ruling class does not often repent, or try to change its mistakes. But a people does.

There are two big lessons for us to learn from America's Day of Prayer. First, we must be honest and wise about our Government. It may make mistakes and do things to be sorry for. All good citizens

must watch for these things, and no one must say we are perfect.

Second, when we are grown up, it will be our duty and privilege to help the American Republic to grow steadily better, to become more nearly the perfect ideal of a free country.

Just as she is, we believe that America is the happiest country in the world. But we are glad with all our hearts that her people have the power to make her ever better.



XVIII

THE Stars and Stripes, the “flag of the free,” were kept safe and clean in the Civil War, as we have seen, and a land of liberty was once more bought for us, by sacrifice.

In this second war for Liberty, the men who fought under the Star-Spangled Banner, and the women who worked and suffered for it, were not of English or Dutch blood alone. They were Americans of many races, French, German, Irish, Italian, Swedish,

and other races. For after the English and Dutch, had come families from all over Europe to settle in the United States of America.

Every family that came here came because it wanted to live in a country which had given its people the right to govern themselves. These German, Italian, French, and Scandinavian people came because of the Declaration of Independence, and because of the Revolutionary War.

The descendants of these families fought for the Union in the Civil War because they were true Americans. They knew what liberty was worth, and they knew that union was the only way to keep it.

The love of liberty is in the hearts of all men everywhere. Sometimes it is buried deep under fear, or love of ease, or love of gain, but it is always there.

We Americans are not the only people who have fought for it. The people of France and Switzerland fought for it and gained it. The people of Russia have fought again and again for it, and are fighting still to gain it. The people of Germany fought for liberty in the Revolution of 1848, and when they lost it many of them came to this country. Their descendants inherit the same love of freedom as our own

Revolutionary descendants, and they have made splendid American citizens.

English people have never ceased to strive for liberty, and although they did not make a revolution like the Americans, they gradually got their liberty through small changes in government. They still have a king and they still have people who are called lords and dukes. But England has to-day a largely representative popular government.

Italy also fought many battles for freedom and often lost. But Italy also to-day has a representative government, although she, too, still has a king.

The word "democracy" means a government by the people, and a republic is the most thorough democracy there is. But we also call a country a democracy if its people are truly represented in the Government, and really manage their own business, even if the country is not a republic. England and Italy feel that they are democracies just as France and America do. They have the spirit of democracy.

Sometime, we believe, all people will gain liberty and the whole world will be a brotherhood of free nations.

But we Americans are the most fortunate of all, because America gained it first, and has kept it.

America is the "land of the free and the home of the brave." Let us work and pray to keep her that.

We owe this great blessing of liberty to the courage and sacrifice of Americans of all races. It is for us all, whether we are of English, Irish, French, German, Italian, or any other blood. And all of us, of every blood, must fight for it when it is threatened, just as it was fought for in the Revolution and in the Civil War. Washington and Lincoln belong to us all, and we must be true to them.

As a loyal American child, I will not listen to any evil spoken of my country. And I will be kind to every other loyal American child, no matter what his blood may be.



RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



XIX

THE country saved for us by Americans of all races in the Civil War was already large and important. It quickly became more so. People from all over the whole world came in ever greater numbers to become American citizens. And our oldest citizens were busy making the country more easily reached in every part. From then until now the United States has grown steadily in people, power, and opportunity. Our inheritance has been increasing for us.

That inheritance is a wonderful one. We have seen how wonderful it is in patriotic wisdom, sacrifice, and courage. It is equally wonderful in the gifts of the land itself.

The American flag is sometimes called the "Star-Spangled Banner," because Francis Keyes called it that in the song which we all sing. Every flag means something, the pattern tells some story. The stars on our Star-Spangled Banner tell the story of our States. Every star stands for a State, and on the Fourth of July each year a new star is added to the flag if a new State has been added to the Union.

There are forty-eight stars on the flag. That means there are forty-eight States in the United States. Forty-eight States make a very, very big country. The United States of America stretches from one ocean to the other. Its western shore is washed by the Pacific Ocean, and its eastern shore meets the Atlantic. It is a long journey from its northern to its southern border.

Some of the forty-eight States are so warm that cotton and oranges grow there. Some are so cold that the ice is many feet thick all winter. Every kind of useful food grows in our country, and all the things we need to build with are found here.

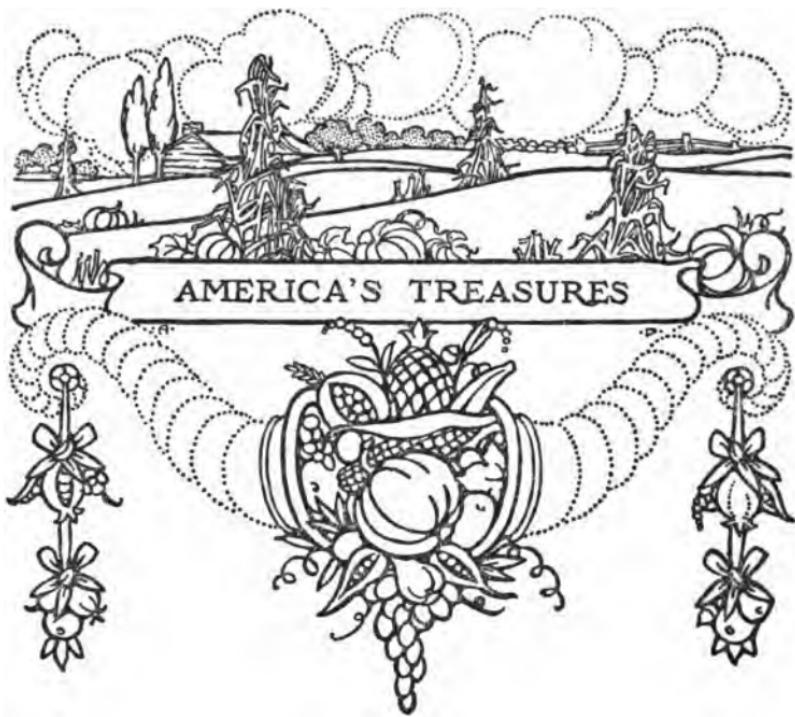
Some countries have to send away for things that grow in hot lands, or things that grow in cold lands. Some countries are so small that they have to send away for grain, or lumber, or wool. But America is so big and has so many different climates that all the things we need grow in her States.

This makes the United States of America a very rich country. It is now called the richest country in the world.

It is a privilege to belong to the richest country in the world. It means that every citizen has a chance to get honestly all that he needs to make him happy and successful.

But we must remember that the richest country can be made poor if the citizens do not learn how to take care of its riches, just as a family can become poor if its children waste money.

Let us keep America rich. Let us learn how to use things without wasting them. As loyal American children, let us learn how to use wise economy, so that the Star-Spangled Banner may always float over the richest country in the world.



XX

THE forty-eight States of our Union are like the rooms of a marvelous treasure-house. And all the treasures in all the forty-eight rooms are guarded by the Star-Spangled Banner.

It waves in the dry, prairie wind of the Dakotas and Minnesota, where golden grain ripples like the waves of a vast sea. It flutters over the States of the Rocky Mountains, where gold and silver and iron are mined by great machines all day long.

It flies over the States of the middle plains, where so much corn is raised that we call it the "corn belt." It brightens the air over vast coal-fields in the States of the eastern mountains.

It blows above the white cotton-fields of the South and the wonderful fruit ranches of South and West. In Texas it sees the mighty herds of cattle that supply food for millions of people.

Oh, what wonderful things the Stars and Stripes protect! Forests of timber; mountains of rich ore; millions of miles of fruit and grain; deep harbors full of strong, swift ships; giant cities full of factories and stores; seas, lakes, and rivers full of fish.

We do not often think how many gifts America has that no other country has so much of. There are many ways in which the United States is the richest country in the world.

America is the greatest farming country in the world. She raises the most corn, the most fruit, and the most cotton of all countries, and next to the most wheat. America is also the greatest fish country and the greatest meat country; the largest cattle ranch in the world is in Texas. America has the most coal and the most iron of any country.

America manufactures the most steel and iron of

any country. She makes the best telephones, the best telegraphs, the best railroad beds and railroad cars in the world. There are more miles of railroad in this country than in any other, and more automobiles in this country than in all the other countries together.

These are only a few of the riches our Mother America provides. The great family of the American Republic is a very fortunate family. Its home is big enough and rich enough for all its children.

We are glad and thankful that we live in America. It is good to have clean homes, with running water and pleasant light, warmed in winter and airy in summer. It is good to have electric cars and trains and motors. It is pleasant to have good things to eat and comfortable, pretty clothes to wear. Grown-up people who have traveled all over the world to the other countries tell us that only the richest people in other lands have the comforts that most Americans have.

Being glad and thankful, we are all going to be more careful of our riches than we were before we thought about it, and more generous in sharing them.

Some of us are new children of America. Some of us have come poor to our new home. Until we know

English well and know how best to be useful, we cannot get all we want of the good things here. What are we going to do?

We are going to learn as fast as we can in America's schools. We are going to keep our homes and ourselves as clean as we can because that is the American way. We are going to take all the helps America gives and use them; the playgrounds, the community houses, the libraries, and the advice of older citizens. Soon we shall have better clothes, better homes, and better food. Soon we shall understand more what it is to be an American.

And always we will love America with all our hearts and believe in her democracy. Her democracy means brotherhood, opportunity, and service. We will not be like the little pigs who eat, and give no thanks, and share nothing. We can serve even while we are small, by giving our loyalty and obedience. The hearts of honest and kind citizens are America's greatest possessions. Not selfishly, but all for all, we will be citizens of the richest country in the world.



XXI

THE Star-Spangled Banner floats over the forty-eight States which make the richest country in the world. And the same forty-eight States make the most beautiful country in the world. America is a land of beauty beyond telling.

If this whole book were filled with stories of America's beautiful spots, it could not tell them all. We will only look at some especially wonderful things.

When we go into the country for a happy time we

always look for water. We know the seaside or a lake shore will be coolest and will give us most fun. All people since the world began have loved water and built their homes near it. The earth is loveliest where there is plenty of blue, clear water.

America is greatly blessed with water. Our sea-coasts are so long that we could spend all the summers of our lives playing on different parts of the shore.

Our rivers are many and varied. We have giant rivers, hundreds of miles long; we have rivers full of rushing waterfalls; we have little rivers, gentle and charming.

And lakes — there never was such a country as ours, for lakes and ponds! First come the "Great Lakes," on our north. They are like smaller oceans, only not salt. Lake Superior is the biggest lake in the whole world.

Then come all sizes of lakes, in forests and valleys and on mountains. If Daddy takes us on a camping trip through New England, there is not a night we cannot pitch tent by a lovely lake. Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are dotted over with gleaming lakes set in the deep green of forest and field. Wisconsin and Minnesota, west of the Mississippi, are also full of lake-jewels and forests. Florida has

silent, mysterious lakes where great tropical birds live and strange flowers grow.

Of all the lakes in the world none are more beautiful than the mountain lakes of our Western National Parks. One of these is called Crater Lake. It is in Oregon, and it is the deepest and bluest lake in the world. Its sides are mountain cliffs a thousand feet high and its water is two thousand feet deep. Famous travelers say that the colors of sunrise and sunset over Crater Lake are the most wonderful views they have ever seen.

Another wonderful mountain lake is Mirror Lake, in the State of Washington. Mirror Lake lies at the foot of mighty Mount Rainier, and between its blue waters and Mount Rainier's glaciers lie fifty miles so full of wild flowers that it is named Paradise Valley.

Our Government has made a National Park around Crater Lake and around Mount Rainier, and takes care of these beautiful places for you and me. We can camp and play there all summer if our fathers can take us there. The National Parks are among the riches America gives her children.

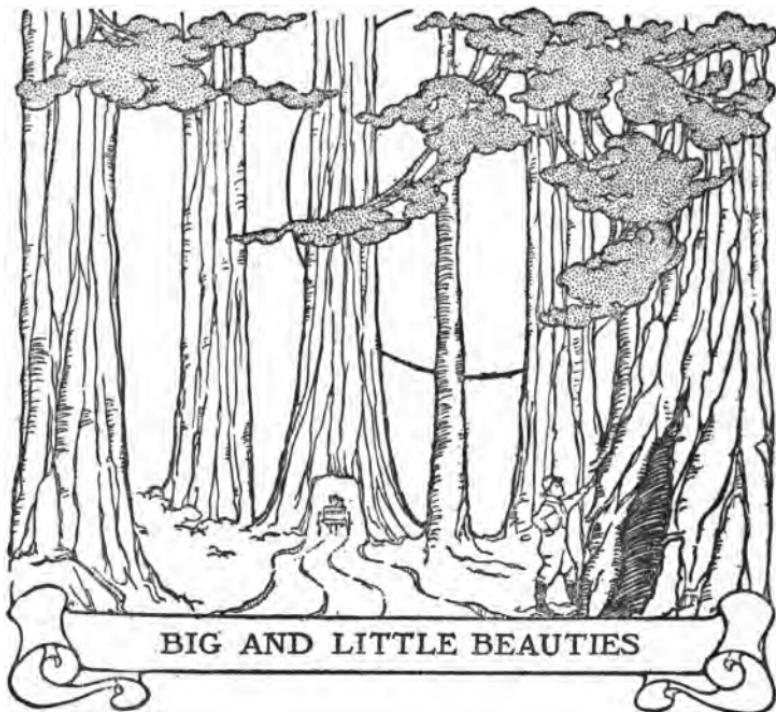
Besides water, people have always loved hills. Every country that has hills and mountains is glad of them. They are cooler than the plains, they let us

see farther, and they are fair to look at. Far away they are blue like the sea, and near they are green and interesting.

All up and down the east and west coast of the United States lie mountain ridges and big hills. And all about in parts of many States are smaller ridges and hills.

Those in the West are magnificent, as we have seen from Mount Rainier. Those in the East are charming and inviting. If you can spend a summer in the Green Mountains of Vermont or the White Mountains of New Hampshire, you will have ponds to play by, woods to camp in, and farms to get eggs and milk from.

These are just a few of the mountains and hills American boys and girls can climb and enjoy. It is nice to belong to a climbing club and take walks every Saturday if you live in a hilly country. The boys and girls of Switzerland make walking their national sport, and our American boys and girls like the same hardy outdoor life that Swiss children enjoy.



XXII

AS beautiful as hills, and as much loved by people of every land, are woods. We cannot even think of a world without trees. How baked with sun it would be in summer, how raked with wind in winter! No homes for the birds, no roofs of green to rest our eyes!

Some trees belong to us here in America especially. They were born here, and are not found in Europe except where some one has carried the seeds or the plants from here.

The oldest living thing and the biggest living thing in all the world grows in America. It is the Giant Sequoia, the biggest tree on earth.

There are more than a million Sequoias in California towering into the clouds so far that the tall forest around is like shrubbery beside them.

These Sequoias are thousands of years old and they are still thriving and beautiful. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the baby animals in the Sequoia forests played around the same trees that we see growing there now. Before Jesus' birth, before the Old Testament was written, one of these Sequoia trees in California was a tall straight sapling. This one, the oldest of all living things, is called the "General Sherman Tree."

After the Giant Sequoia, the king of our trees is the White Pine. King Pine holds his head in the sky so far above the rest of the forest that the other tree-tops seem like a floor beneath him. He flings his broad, flat branches out in big tents across the sky-line. Wherever he grows there is beauty. His needles make a spicy carpet in the woods, good to play on.

The queen of our trees is the American Elm. New England children are brought up under its graceful,

arching branches. It is tall and graceful, and it makes cool shade by grassy roadsides.

In the far Northwest the Douglas Spruce grows, a tall, vigorous evergreen. In the far Northeast the White and Red Spruces are just as beautiful, only smaller. And near these grows the "Pointed Fir," the Balsam.

All the little children in America love the Sugar-Maple Tree, because it gives us the delicious maple-sugar and maple-syrup. It is one of the finest trees in our towns and woods.

Nothing makes us more healthy and happy than to spend much time in the silent woods. We can find new flowers, we can build log cabins, we can watch for birds and rabbits and foxes. Every boy and girl who lives in the country ought to belong to a wood-craft club that goes with some grown-up friend to the woods in pleasant weather. City boys and girls in America have near-by parks where the finest trees of all kinds grow.

It is not only the big things that are beautiful. Some of the littlest things in the world are the fairest.

Of all the lovely little things on earth we best like flowers and birds, don't we? Do we all know that our

country is famous among scientists for flowers and birds? We have a great many kinds of song birds in the United States and a great many kinds of flowers.

There are too many birds to be named in this book, but we can find handbooks in the Public Library that will give us colored pictures of them.

What a wonderful thought God had when he made birds! They gladden our eyes, they gladden our hearts, and they destroy the harmful insects that make war on flowers and fruits. They are our little brothers of the sky. One friend of the children says, "They are the flowers of the air."

Flowers of the earth are equally lovely. We like to pick them in the fields and we like to raise them from seed in our gardens. America is a vast garden of flowers. She has flowers of the tropics, and flowers of the cold, flowers brought from Europe, and flowers native to the land. No country is more favored with these little lovely things.

Big beauties and little beauties, our dear America is rich in them all. We are grateful for them all. We hope to see many of them. We will look for them and read about them, and wherever we find a beautiful thing we will help to keep it beautiful. We will not break a tree or crush a flower. We will not hurt

the birds or take their nests. We will protect the gracious woods from fire.

Because we are Americans, and these beauties of America are ours, we will do our best to keep our country forever what one of our favorite songs calls her, "America the Beautiful."



XXIII

I AM an American. My language is English; English is the language of America.

English is the language of the King James Bible, one of the most wonderful books in the world, the book which has helped form all American literature.

English is the language of our American Constitution, the ablest plan of popular government in the world. It is the language of our American National

Hymn, and of the beautiful patriotic songs we sing in school.

English is the language of England, the United States, Canada, and Australia. It is the mother tongue of nearly two hundred million people.

America has many newcomers from other lands, who do not yet speak good English. Until they speak good English, they cannot really understand America. All America's history and all her government are explained in English. Until they understand and speak good English, they cannot be the best Americans.

America welcomes all who come to her seeking to be free and to work for the freedom of all. America welcomes their languages. All are dear and beautiful. But America says, "English first! America's language is English. Have as much knowledge as you can; knowledge of languages is good. But your own language, if you are an American, must be English."

English is a rarely beautiful tongue. It can express all kinds of thought and feeling, and can make you see all kinds of pictures in your mind. Some English verses sound like rippling water and singing birds. Others make you think of the trampling of horses' feet and the roar of thunder.

Ask some grown-up friend to read you this poem

by Tennyson, and notice how much it sounds like a bugle call, and how it makes you think of sunset time.

“The splendor falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story;
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

“O, hark, O, hear! how thin and clear,
And thinner, clearer, farther going!
O, sweet and far from cliff and scar
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing!
Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying,
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.”

Now, read this paragraph of the Twenty-third Psalm from our Bible. The words make you feel peaceful and comfortable. You feel as if your mother's arms were around you:—

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul.”

Here is a very different-sounding paragraph. This one makes you feel angry, and eager and ready to fight. It is a part of the famous Liberty Speech by Patrick Henry:—

“Gentlemen may cry peace, peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale

that sweeps from the North will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

This is a little poem which shows how much the English language is suited to the tender words we use for babies. It is a lullaby and you can hardly say it without wanting to nod your head and go to sleep!—

"The Rock-a-by Lady from Hush-a-by Street
Comes stealing; comes creeping;
The poppies they hang from her head to her feet,
And each hath a dream that is tiny and fleet —
She bringeth her poppies to you, my sweet,
When she findeth you sleeping!"

English is beautiful for poetry, and clear and powerful for prose. In English you can say everything you think, with force and dignity. It is a language which has been made by thousands of years of growth, and it has been built out of the speech of peoples who no longer live on earth. That makes it rich and varied, as America is made rich and varied by having been built out of so many races.

As a loyal American I will protect and cherish the English language. I will speak it well, for it is very

beautiful and very powerful. I will study the great stories and poems and plays of the English language. I will call no other tongue my mother tongue. The English language is my language, the language of America.



XXIV

THE American flag protects all Americans whether they speak the English language well or not.

But something very dangerous to freedom can happen if all Americans do not speak and use English.

Sometimes a great many Russians or Italians or Germans come to America at one time, and go to one place. They settle there and get work from Ameri-

cans, and live in American homes, and send their children to American schools. But they live and talk as they did in Europe. The Americans around them talk about government and business, and education, and American ways of doing things. But the newcomers do not understand.

Then some bad man from the old country comes and talks to them in the language they do understand. And he tells them false things. He tells them that America is all selfish, that the rich rule and that every one must get all he can for himself. He tells them not to work faithfully for their employers, but to steal and lie.

If the newcomers could understand English, they would soon hear of the many wealthy men in America who serve their fellows with unselfish skill; they would hear of the many honest workmen who have become rich and powerful in this country; they would hear of the schools where all may learn trades and business.

But they do not understand English, and they believe the false stories.

Then comes a war. Some enemy of freedom threatens America. America needs every hand and every heart to fight for liberty and honor.

But the bad man comes to the people who do not speak English and he says, "America's enemy is your friend; he wants to give you more freedom than America has given. America is not really your friend."

The newcomers forget that they came to America because things were so hard in Europe. They forget that America has given them freedom to think and act as they wish, schools for their children, work for themselves, and patience for their ignorance.

And so when the American Government asks for soldiers, some of these men do not go. When the American Government asks for Liberty Bonds, some of these men do not buy them.

And when the bad man wants some one to blow up an American factory full of innocent women and girls, he goes to one of these people and tells him the enemy will reward him, will make him rich and important.

And the man takes a bomb and blows up the factory, and kills mothers and fathers and sisters, good citizens of America! He stabs the Freedom that sheltered and fed him.

This can truly happen. It has happened more than once in the Great War which began in 1914.

In 1918 there were a very great number of Ger-

mans in this country who did not speak English. That was one way the German Government had got ready to conquer America. The German Government knew that people could more easily be made untrue to America if they knew no English. So the German Government had sent clever men here, to start German newspapers, to publish German books and to get votes so that German should be taught in the primary schools in towns where many Germans lived.

Many of these American Germans were still taught the old foolish things: that the Kaiser had a Divine right to rule; that Germany was meant to rule the world; that it was not wrong to crush a nation and make it belong to Germany.

So some of these people became a real secret army for the Kaiser, against the country they called their own. They had come here because they wanted the golden gifts of a free country. And they paid for these golden gifts with treachery. These were false friends like Charles Lee, traitors like Benedict Arnold. How different from the hundreds of thousands of American citizens of German birth, like Carl Schurz, who really loved Freedom and Honor!

When the histories tell how Freedom and Honor

won the war, and made America safe again, the children of those families must bear the shame of a blackened name. That is a heavy sorrow to put on an American child. To have the other fathers and mothers patriots, heroes, and one's own dear father or mother a traitor!

Let us all, all American children, pray that our little brothers and sisters in America may not have this to bear, but that all may be proud and happy to know that their fathers and mothers served America faithfully in her hour of need.



XXV

THE Stars and Stripes have not gone out to war many times. America is a whole ocean away from Europe, and a whole ocean away from Asia; Canada, on our northern border, is a good friend of ours, because the people live and think very much as we do.

Before the Civil War, there had been a war with Mexico after Texas had separated from Mexico and joined the United States. The war was about a doubt-

ful boundary, and historians differ about who was right. But it is the only war we have ever fought for a cause less great than "Freedom and Honor."

Very different was the one war the United States fought after the Civil War. Then the Stars and Stripes went out for Honor and Freedom, indeed. This was the Spanish War.

In the year 1898, when William McKinley was our President, the island of Cuba, which belonged to Spain, was suffering terribly in a war against the tyranny of the Spanish Government. The Cubans had rebelled and fought for many years, but the Spanish Government, which at that time was unwise and false, did not keep its promises of reform.

The United States saw its little sister country being abused by a wicked governor, and unable to free itself because it was smaller than the country which abused it. The cruelties in Cuba grew so bad that it was not right for the United States to look on and see the smaller country suffer unhelped.

So on April 20 the United States told Spain that she must set Cuba free. Spain refused, and the United States went to war with the Spanish Government.

We won the war, in sharp battles on land and sea.

But it was mostly on the sea, because Spain sent part of her navy to fight for her claims.

We shall be interested to read how Commodore Dewey took his Pacific Squadron of our Navy into Manila Harbor, and destroyed the whole Spanish fleet there, without losing one American sailor.

This battle set the Philippine Islands free from Spain. They were struggling for liberty just as Cuba was.

Another Spanish fleet was sent out, and the United States fleet under Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley caught it while it was in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba taking on coal. Our ships lay outside the harbor and waited for the Spanish ships to come out.

The Spanish Admiral, Cervera, who was a fine naval officer, knew that he could not come out without losing his fleet, but the Spanish Government sent him an order to leave the harbor and fight, and he obeyed orders.

As his four cruisers and two destroyers steamed out of the narrow mouth of the harbor, the American vessels closed in on them so they had to run in along shore. And in a very short battle, one after another the ships were driven on shore or destroyed by American gunners.

The American sailors on the Texas were fighting one of the Spanish ships, and they saw that it had caught fire from their guns, and was conquered. They started to cheer, but Captain Jack Philip stopped them. He said, "Don't cheer, boys, the poor fellows are dying."

That message came back to America with the news of victory. The people of the United States felt that both messages gave them the spirit of our Navy. The regret of a brave commander for the suffering of his enemy was the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, and of all our greatest Americans.

While the Navy was fighting, an American army under General Shafter went into Cuba and conquered the Spanish army there. There were many volunteers in our army in Cuba, and one regiment was called "Roosevelt's Rough-Riders." These men were commanded by Colonel Leonard Wood, one of our bravest and most modest officers. Under him served Theodore Roosevelt, who afterwards became our President. These volunteers did splendid service, and America was very proud of them.

At the end of the war, Spain gave up her control over Cuba and Porto Rico.

The United States sent a temporary government to

Cuba, to help the smaller country get started in the right way. When the Cuban people were ready to manage their affairs for themselves, we called the Americans home again and Cuba became independent,

Some of the European countries had said that America would not take her government away, but would take Cuba for herself. But the United States showed by her acts that the war had been truly a war for the rights of small peoples.

We can be very proud of the work of our Army and Navy in the Spanish War, and of the fair dealing of our Government. Let us thank God for teaching our first Americans how to build a republic, where we ourselves can decide what we will fight and suffer for. Let us ask Him to give us wisdom to keep the Republic free from unjust wars, and for courage to fight bravely for it in a just cause.



XXVI

WE know something about government now. We know that each country has either a democratic government or an autocratic government. The people of each country obey its laws because that is the only way they can live together comfortably.

But the different countries have to live with each other, too. People do not stay in their own country. They travel for business and pleasure. The ships of all countries use the same ocean. The products of

one country go to another, and often pass through still other countries on their way. Mail and telegrams go through many countries.

This could not be, without some kind of law to live by. We could not send mail through a country if that country let her railroad men steal it, or keep it back. We could not use the ocean if some country allowed her navy to sink our ships.

Long ago there were no laws between countries. As soon as a traveler left his own country he was likely to be robbed or killed. But as soon as business and travel began to grow between countries, the countries began to make agreements with each other. What governments agree upon is called a "treaty." A treaty is a promise of governments to each other.

Every promise is a solemn thing. A man who breaks his promise is despised by other men. But a treaty is far more solemn than a man's promise. It is the promise of a whole nation. If it is broken, it breaks the reputation of a whole people.

After hundreds of years of making treaties, some things had been agreed upon so often that they became a kind of law. Those things that all civilized countries agreed on were called "International Law."

But International Law was only an understanding.

There was no court and no book of laws, and there were no lawyers for it. When countries disagreed about International Law there was no one to decide. War decided.

All the countries kept up armies and navies in case of disagreement. It cost millions of dollars to keep the armies and navies, and all the millions had to come out of the citizens' pockets. This had made much suffering.

Wise men in every country saw that there ought to be a court to settle the disputes of nations, with a real book of International Law. These men saw that the right way for countries to settle their disputes was by arbitration.

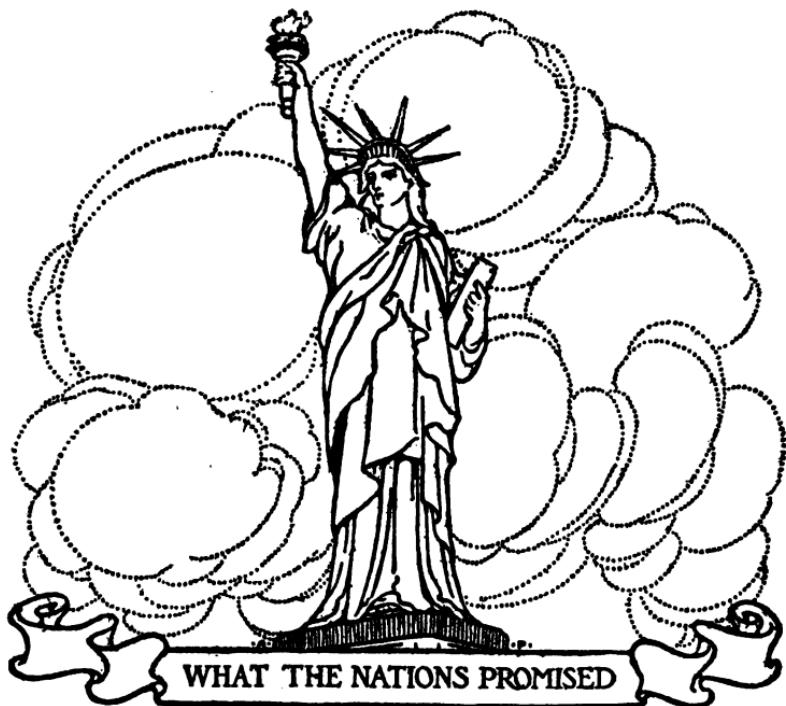
Arbitration means to call in an outsider who can listen to both sides, see the thing in a calm way, and decide justly. The world needed a Court of Arbitration with books of International Law and all the power that real courts have.

In 1898, the Czar of Russia, who is now no longer a Czar, invited all the governments to meet together and talk about a Court of Arbitration. Russia was one of the countries that suffered with a big army, and the Czar saw how much a Court of Arbitration was needed.

All the big countries sent representatives, and the meeting was held at The Hague, a beautiful city of Holland. At this meeting the countries agreed on the Code of International Law and made a plan for a Court of Arbitration.

In 1907, the countries sent their representatives again to The Hague and more was agreed upon.

Now at last the world had a Code of International Law, and a court where disputes could be settled, and an agreement about the most important things. It was now written down in books where every one could see it, just what the nations could expect of each other, what they could depend on.



XXVII

WHAT the nations agreed on showed what the general conscience of the world believed to be right, just as the laws of a country show what the general conscience of that country believes to be right.

Most of the agreements were about war, because war has always been the most terrible danger to nations and it is in time of danger that most protection is needed.

Of all the mean and dishonest things that used to happen in wars, nothing had made so much trouble as the violation of neutrality.

Suppose on both sides of your house were families that disliked each other. Suppose the boys of the two families got great stones and threw at each other. Then suppose one family came over on your porch and threw stones at the other house from the shelter of yours. All the stones thrown back at them would hit your windows and your family; and you, who had not quarreled, would suffer the most of all.

That is what has often happened in war. It is a violation of neutrality. To violate neutrality is for a warring country to go into a country that is not in the war, and use it to fight his enemy.

The nations at The Hague solemnly agreed that this sin against the rights of nations should not be committed. There should be no violation of neutrality.

One of the worst violations of neutrality that can happen is when the vessels of a peaceful country are captured or destroyed by the warring countries. The ocean is the natural open road for all countries. Every one has a right to travel there. War or no war,

no country has a right to destroy the vessels of a country not at war with her.

So this also was one of the agreements of the nations at The Hague. There should be no violation of neutrality on the sea.

Another agreement of great importance was about the sick and wounded in war, and those who take care of them.

Savages have no respect for innocence and no mercy for the helpless. But the civilized world realizes that some things must be sacred, even in war. To hurt a wounded man, or a nurse, or a doctor who is risking his life to help and save, is too low, too ugly. The nations said at The Hague that they would agree not to attack each other's hospitals, hospital ships, and first-aid tents, and not to attack the helpless, or those who care for them.

And because a prisoner of war is also helpless, being no longer in his army or protected by his own country, the nations at The Hague agreed on certain fair and humane treatment for prisoners of war.

Oh, how glad the world was when these agreements were made at The Hague! Especially in America we were happy, because in America we had known how sweet it is to have peace, and we hoped no war would

ever come again to the world. We thought that there would be no need of war, for now the world had agreed on the laws which it must obey, and had a plan for a Court of Arbitration, where all nations could settle their disputes by these laws.



XXVIII

WE were right in thinking there was no need for war. But we were wrong in thinking war would not come. There was no need for war if no nation wanted war, but there was a chance for war if any nation wanted it.

A court would not be of much use in your town if there were no police. Suppose the judge decided that John Brown had stolen George White's money, and should pay it back, and John Brown simply said, "I will not." Who would make him?

With every court of justice there must be a way to make people obey its decisions. The Court of Arbitration had no police, and so it could not force any nation to come to it for decision or to obey if it came. Only a great big World-Police of armies and navies could have made the Court of Arbitration able to prevent war.

And one nation — that is, one nation's Government — wanted war. So war came. In 1914 an excuse was found, just as the autocracies have always found excuses. A member of the Austrian royal family was murdered in Serbia. Few people in the outside world knew much about the man who was killed. He had never been important to other people. But his death became the match that set all Europe on fire. It was the "excuse." Then something like this happened:

Austria said to Serbia, "You must pay for this by humbling yourself to us like a slave."

Serbia said, "We will do what is right, but you ask too much."

Austria said, "Then we will make war on you."

Russia said, "If you make war on my friend Serbia, I will make war on you."

Germany said, "Austria and Germany are one. I

will make war on any one who supports Serbia against Austria."

France said, "I am Russia's ally. If you make war on Russia, I will fight."

Germany said, "Then I will fight France and I will go through Belgium to get at her."

England said, "If you violate Belgium, I will fight too."

Turkey and Bulgaria joined with Germany, and later, Italy and Roumania joined the friends of France. We call Germany, Austria, and Turkey the Central Powers. England, France, and their friends, we call the Entente Allies.

So in a few weeks the greatest war in all history was being fought.

It was all so fast and strange that people in America did not know what to think. We felt as if we were at the theater, looking at a strange play, and soon we should go out of doors and see the peaceful stars, and know it had all been make-believe.

From the very first moment each of the warring countries began to tell the world, in the public speeches of its representatives, that the others had begun the war. Each country said, "I was attacked. I am only defending myself." Each country said,

too, that the enemy had long planned and wanted war.

The people of the United States did not know what to think. We knew that most of the other wars in Europe had been the fault of both sides, and that the causes were hidden from the public. We thought, perhaps this war also was the fault of both sides, and that the hidden causes would soon be uncovered and would show the truth.

But one thing we could all see without waiting. One thing was clear. We might not know which country planned the war, but we did know what each country did in the war. From the first hour one country did things against International Law and against its agreements. That country was Germany.

Belgium, the small, rich, busy country between northern France and Germany, was a neutral country. Germany had made a solemn treaty to respect Belgium's neutrality in case of war with France.

But Germany broke her solemn promise. Across Belgium was an easy way to Paris; it was an easy way because France had trusted the word of Germany and had built no forts on that border. Germany took the easy way. In spite of her solemn treaty, she marched her millions of men, her guns, her horses,

her mighty trucks, straight into Belgium to get at France.

The whole world felt the shock of such an act of national dishonor. And the act was made worse by the speech of the Chancellor of Germany, which showed the world that Germany did not even care for honor. The Chancellor said to the British Ambassador that it was dreadful for England to declare war because Germany had violated Belgium's neutrality. He said, "Just for a word, — 'neutrality,' — just for a scrap of paper!"

Nothing that Germany did afterwards gave the world a clearer idea of how she felt about honor. She called her treaty, the solemn promise of one nation to another, a scrap of paper.



XXIX

DISHONOR, like darkness, looks blacker against the light. Belgium's honor shone as pure and white as Germany's dishonor was black and ugly. The little country rose as one man, and fought. Every man and boy who could carry a gun rushed to the call of King Albert, and the small army, only partly trained, partly armed, badly fed, threw itself in the way of the endless stream of the tremendous German army.

Every child must read the story of Belgium's defense, for it is one of the great stories of all history.

The German army, great as it was, was held back by the magnificent defense of the little Belgian army. The leaders who started to march into Paris like a holiday procession, found themselves fighting in Belgium, while England and France had time to send soldiers to defend Paris.

This enraged the German leaders, and all at once here in America we began to hear stories so awful that we could not believe them.

We heard that the Germans had burned up whole towns in Belgium, that they had taken hundreds of village people, not soldiers, had driven them into village squares and cemeteries, and had shot them dead in masses. We heard that they were killing mothers and little babies, and old men, who could not harm any one. We heard that they were stealing what they did not burn, and, worst of all, that they were torturing people. To torture — that is, to hurt in dreadful ways on purpose — is something only the savages are expected to do.

We said in America, "These are stories told by frightened people, who exaggerate everything. They cannot be true."

But soon came letters from our own people who happened to be in Belgium when the Germans came, men and women of the highest character, our own Government's representatives. They said it was true. Soon came Belgian men and women to this country who had escaped, men and women of unstained reputation. They said it was true. By and by the French and Belgian Governments held courts of inquiry, and after all the witnesses had been examined, the judges said it was true.

America did not wholly believe it even then. But in the years that followed, Germany went on doing dreadful things, violating all the principles of International Law, all the laws of international conscience, until at last the world had to believe. It was true.

First Germany violated Belgium's neutrality and called her solemn treaty a scrap of paper. Then Germany violated the laws of humanity by killing non-combatants, by destroying cities and towns, by torture and by theft. And soon other terrible violations were added to these.

The French and English armies that were hurried to France, with almost no preparation and with no time to make plans, gave the Germans the same surprise that Belgium did.

Germany had millions of soldiers trained to obey like clockwork; she had ammunition, supplies, everything. And her plan was perfectly ready. But France and England had the soul which cannot be conquered; the soul of Freedom and Honor. Every soldier felt the burning anger of a man whose home is attacked. A righteous cause makes a mighty army, as we Americans know. And the army of France met the army of Germany like a rock standing against the beating surf.

We shall read much of the Battle of the Marne, when we are older. And when we read it we shall find our hearts beating and our eyes wet, thanking God for the spirit in the hearts of men that makes them so heroic.

There at the river Marne, which lay between the German enemy and their Paris, the Frenchmen said, "No further." The German army, sweeping on, was suddenly stopped by a living wall of invincible defenders.

Dying by tens of thousands, borne down by awful numbers, fighting in a living volcano of fire and noise and suffering, the French and British soldiers pushed the German army back, back, away from the Marne and back to the Aisne. The battle of the Marne saved Paris, and France.

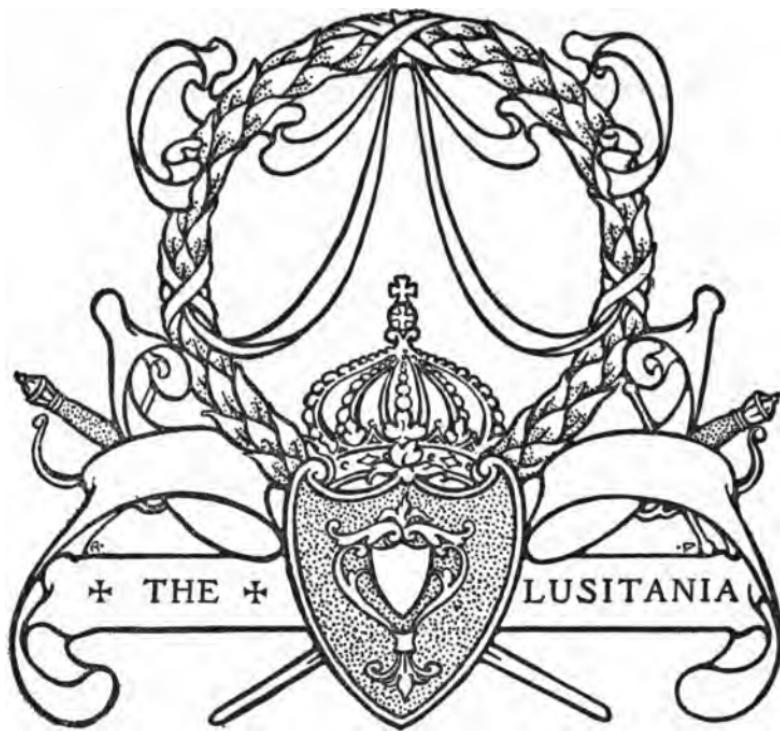
The German army settled down for a long war, instead of a short and easy one. And again we began to hear horrible stories. French towns and French people were suffering as the Belgians had suffered. And again we found the stories were true.

Every month some new and unbelievable violation was done.

People in the conquered towns were driven out of their homes like herds of cattle and made to work for Germany. No slavery the world ever knew was so dreadful as this.

English prisoners of war were starved and had dogs set on them by Germany.

And at last the German army began to fire on hospitals, stretcher-bearers, wounded men, and nurses. Of all the horrible things this seemed the worst. But something worse was to come.



XXX

THE ships that carried grain and meat to Germany could not get past the English fighting ships in the English Channel and the North Sea. The German Navy tried to protect them and to keep the food-ships away from England in turn. But the English Navy was the stronger, and the English commanders stopped the food-ships on their way and sent them into English and French harbors.

So Germany thought of a new way to starve England and win the war.

Germany had been making a great many submarines. The submarine is a fighting ship which can go under water. It fires torpedoes at the enemy ships while it is under water. When it comes to the surface the crew fire guns. The submarine was invented by an American, and is used by nearly all countries. Germany had been making large and very powerful submarines.

In February, 1915, the German Government said to the world, "We are going to send our submarines out into the ocean around England, and sink every ship that comes near, no matter what country it belongs to, nor what it carries. We do not care whether it is a passenger ship or where it is going. We will sink the little fishing boats and the big steamers all alike. We will not give any warning, or try to save the people. We shall torpedo every ship we can catch. We will starve England at any cost to the world."

The German Government said this in more grown-up words, but this was what the words meant.

We have heard about violations of International Law. This was a violation of International Law and of The Hague promises. It was more than that, it

was a violation of the human conscience. The world could not believe that Germany meant it.

On a spring day in 1915 the great steamship Lusitania sailed out of New York Harbor to cross to England. Our fathers and mothers have always liked to go to Europe by the Cunard Line, and the Lusitania was one of the best ships of the line. There were many families on board. Many mothers and little children who had to go home to England, Scotland, or France were traveling on the Lusitania because she was so safe and swift. There were more than a thousand people who had nothing at all to do with the war.

On the 7th of May, when the Lusitania was almost at the coast of England, an unseen submarine shot two torpedoes into her. There were two fearful explosions, and instantly the Lusitania began to sink. In the terrible fright and confusion, the crews hurried as fast as they could to lower the lifeboats. Brave men rushed about putting little children in the boats, and helping women. But faster and faster the Lusitania settled under them. There was no time, no help, no hope.

In less than twenty minutes the great ship sank to the bottom of the sea, and all those hundreds of

mothers and fathers and little children were struggling in the icy water.

Poor little babies! Like wax dolls, they floated a moment on the waves, helpless, then they sank beneath the whirling waters and were drowned.

One thousand, one hundred and ninety-eight people were murdered at sea that day by the German Government and its submarine!

While the whole civilized world was filled with horror and pity, Germany held a special holiday for her school-children, to celebrate the sinking. The German newspapers said, "With joy and pride we contemplate this latest deed of our navy." And Germany had medals made, celebrating the sinking of the Lusitania and making fun of the people who sailed in her!

Then the world knew that Germany meant what she said about submarines. And the world began to understand that Germany did not care for the things the other civilized countries had been learning to care for. She did not care for honor, and justice, and mercy. She only cared to get what she wanted by any means that would succeed.

Men who read and study the thoughts of other nations had been telling us for a long time that this

was so. They had studied German books of politics and war, and they had told us that Germany thought differently from the rest of us. Those German books told that the German Government was planning to make itself ruler of the world. Those books said that deceit and cruelty did not matter if only Germany got what she wanted.

If all countries had read Germany's books and had believed the German people really meant them, we might all have known that this terrible war was about to come.

But almost no one had believed it. Even after so many horrors in France and Serbia and Belgium, many people could not yet believe it. It did not seem that any country could be so wicked.

It was especially hard here in America to believe evil of Germany because we knew so many people of German blood. We had found our citizens of German blood as honest, as kind, as true to the flag of Liberty as other Americans. So we could not think the Germans in Germany were very different.

But we had not known that Germany had changed her ideals since these Germans came to America. And the change of ideals had changed the nation.

What you care most about, your ideal, makes you

into its own image. If you care for money more than anything else, you grow mean and greedy. If you care most of all for show, you grow foolish and artificial. If you care most for the "Kingdom of God and His righteousness," you grow beautiful and true. And a nation is like a person.

The German nation had been taught to care about German power more than anything else. Germany was to be everything, the rest of the world nothing. Germany must grow to be a tremendous empire, ruling the world and the world's trade. It did not matter what happened to any one else or to any other nation. A greater Germany at any cost was Germany's ideal.

The Kaiser and his ruling class had taught the people that the way to get this greater Germany was to have a mighty army, and to make the army obey him absolutely. There must be no conscience but the Kaiser's word. And "frightfulness" (the German word means "things that are terrible") was to be the spirit of the army.

The sinking of the Lusitania showed to the world that Germany would violate any law, break any promise, to win the war and gain the power she wanted.



XXXI

OVER one hundred of the people killed on the Lusitania were American citizens. So the sinking of the Lusitania was a violation of America's neutrality as well as a violation of all International Law.

Many persons in America thought the United States ought to go to war with Germany at once. But our Government was very anxious not to add to the suffering of the world, not to make the war any bigger. We still hoped Germany might be persuaded

to regret her lawless acts, and change. America still hoped to bring back peace to the world.

Many messages were sent from the United States Government to the German Government, and back again. Such messages are called "notes."

After many notes Germany promised the United States that she would not again torpedo a passenger ship without warning.

But she broke that promise just as she had broken her promises to other nations. And the German submarines began to do still more terrible things. When they had sunk a ship, and the poor men, women, and children had got into lifeboats, the submarine crews shot at these helpless people, and killed them. They took English sailors from lifeboats and put them on their submarine deck, and then they shut the submarine up tight and dived underneath the water, so that the sailors were all swept off and drowned. They even torpedoed hospital ships full of helpless wounded men and their doctors and nurses.

All this time the German representatives to the United States were pretending that Germany was very friendly to America, and in Berlin the Kaiser was pretending to our Ambassador that he was very friendly to America.

But our Government had secret service men watching and listening. By and by they found out that the German representatives in this country were making a secret war on us. They were really officers in command of a secret army.

These men had been given money by the German Government to pay a whole army of spies. The spies found out when our ships were sailing and sent word to the submarines.

And the German representatives paid men to blow up munition factories and kill hundreds of innocent Americans. They paid men to deceive German Americans in places where there were many ignorant people, and to teach them to believe in Germany and to fight against America.

One of the worst things the German Government did was to try to get Mexico to make war on us. They had even planned to give a part of the United States to Mexico as a reward, and had planned to put German officers in charge of Mexican troops.

So at last after three years the Great World War had come across the ocean, and was threatening the American Republic. Americans were no longer safe on the open ocean, Americans were no longer safe in

their own factories, they could no longer live in peace with their neighbor countries. The same iron hand which had crushed bleeding Belgium and Serbia, and was now trying to crush France and England, had reached out to drag the American Republic into ruin also.

The United States did not declare war on Germany. Germany was already making war on America, under cover. And the President of the United States only recognized that fact.

On the 2d of April, 1917, President Wilson went before our Congress in Washington, and very solemnly, very sadly, gave the message that we were at War with Germany.

President Wilson's message was very long. When we are grown up it will be a part of history. There are some parts of it we can easily understand now. We can read these parts over, as our mothers and fathers have often done since they were first said to Congress:—

“With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my constitutional duty, I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing

less than war against the Government and people of the United States. . . .

“We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them. . . .

“To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.

“God helping her, she can do no other.”



XXXII

PRESIDENT WILSON'S message tells us plainly why the United States was fighting Germany and what we were fighting for. All of us American children must clearly understand and remember what the greatest war of the world was about. When we are grown up the world will be different from what it was before this war, and we want to understand how America helped make it different.

The War was about the same thing as the Rev-

olutionary War, the Civil War, and the Spanish War.

In the War of the Revolution we fought to get liberty for America. In the Civil War we fought to keep liberty for America. In the Spanish War we fought to get liberty for a small, oppressed country.

In 1917, we fought to keep our own liberty and to give liberty to all other nations. Each time tryanny threatened freedom. This last time the greatest tyranny ever known threatened all the world.

President Wilson said, "We must make the world safe for democracy."

One of our first American volunteers wrote home to his little son, "Never forget that your father went into this war to keep the world safe for all little children."

Another of our American volunteers, who sailed for France at Christmas time, said, "We boys feel that we are going to war to end war. We believe when we have won this war there will really be 'Peace on Earth.'"

These three sayings explain very clearly what America was fighting for.

America went out to fight the country that tore little children from their mothers' arms, that drowned

little helpless babies, and killed loving mothers before their children's eyes. America fought to keep that country from ruling the world. Our fathers and our big brothers went willingly to battle and suffering and death, because they would rather die than see liberty, mercy, and justice die.

Germany had said that America would not fight. Many times in Berlin our Ambassador had been treated badly by the German Government when he tried to get fair treatment for the English and French prisoners. And always he had heard it said there was nothing to fear because "America would not fight."

Germany was mistaken. President Wilson's message was given to Congress in April, 1917. At that time the United States had a small army and a small navy. On the Fourth of July, one year later, the United States had one million fighting men in France, and a million more in America getting ready to go!

In a few weeks after the President's message a squadron of our fighting ships was already off the coast of England fighting the German submarines, and a flotilla of armed yachts was in French waters protecting the French fishing vessels and the troop ships. By the Fourth of July, 1918, there were fifty thousand men in the American Navy off the coast of Europe,

and another great navy in training on our own coast. America *would* fight!

America did not want to fight. No right-minded person likes fighting, but America would rather fight than let Germany spoil the world for right-minded people to live in. Once more a great cause made a mighty army.

Our American fathers and brothers wanted peace, but they wanted peace for all nations. They were not willing to have peace and comfort for themselves while their brothers were forced to an unjust war.

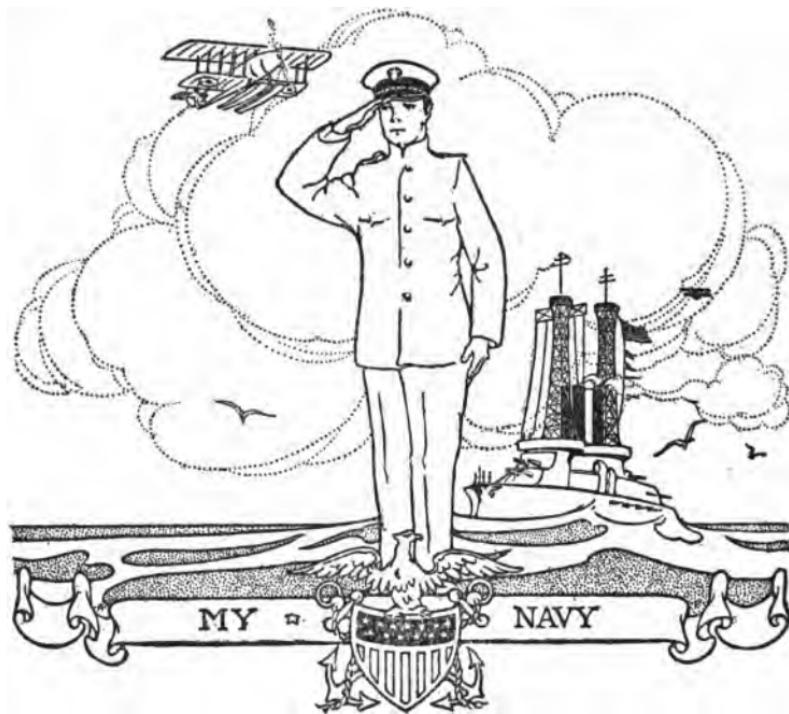
When America entered the War she felt that such horrors must never be let happen again. The world must be fixed so that no nation ever again could be able to say, "I will take what I please and do what I like. My might is right."

To make the world safe for all little children, to make the world safe for democracy, means to make it safe against any country that might ever try to do what Germany has done. So America entered the War not just to beat Germany, but to make the world really and truly safe for democracy.

As loyal American children we are thankful that America was able to help our suffering sister countries against their oppressor. We are thankful that Amer-

ica had a President who could see so clearly and say so powerfully what the nations on earth were fighting for. When we are grown up we will do our part to keep our country true to the high, unselfish purpose with which she entered the Greatest War; to protect the human rights of all peoples, and to help them live in a spirit of brotherhood in a world safe for all.

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XXXIII

TO make the world safe for little children meant to fight, to fight under the Stars and Stripes by land and sea. "First to fight" is the watchword of the United States Marines, a part of our American Navy. And first to fight after America entered the War was our splendid Navy.

The American Navy has a proud record of one hundred and fifty years of success, of courage, and of noble character in officers and men.

This record shows that the United States Navy has always been ready; ready to obey orders, ready to go into action. It is as ready to-day as it always was.

As soon as America entered the War, our Government sent a squadron of fighting ships, called destroyers, across the ocean to help the English Navy fight the German submarines. It was cold weather. The voyage was especially rough and hard on ships and men. After such a trip it usually takes much time to put everything in repair and to rest the men.

When the American destroyers arrived in an English harbor, the English commander under whom they were to serve, Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, said to the officer in command of the squadron, "How soon can you be ready to go to sea?"

The American commander answered, "The ships and the men are fit to sail at once, sir, as soon as we can take on fuel."

The English Admiral was pleased, as well he might be. Such readiness meant hard, constant work all the way over, and it meant strength and endurance in both men and ships.

The United States Navy went to work, with the English and French Navies, to keep the deadly gray German submarine from winning the War.

Out on the wide ocean that should be free and safe, those submarines were lying under the waves like sharks waiting to devour the precious lives of men, women, and little children.

They sunk the great ships with torpedoes and sent the women and children down into the icy water. They sunk the little fishing boats, and drowned the hard-working fishermen. But most they hoped to sink the big transport steamers loaded with our American boys on their way to France to fight for the world's freedom.

But some one else was out on the wide ocean. The United States Navy was there, ready and keen and brave. Working with the English and French Navies, our destroyers, our submarines, our small, swift submarine chasers, and our great flying machines were hunting for the German submarines. All day while we were in school, all night while we were asleep, in wind, in storm, in sun and rain, our Navy watched and fought for us.

America sent millions of men across the ocean and millions of tons of food and supplies, and the American Navy with God's help carried them safely over the terrors of the sea. Some of our brave brothers went down to death, but every man of the millions

who safely arrived resolved to fight the harder for those who died.

Ship after ship, ship after ship, the American Navy took them in safety to the other side of the sea, and with them it took the ships that carried food, and clothes, and ammunition to our Allies.

One day our Navy caught a German submarine and sent a shot into her. The sailors on the submarine had to jump into the sea when their submarine sank under them, just as they had made many a poor little child leap into the waves. But the American sailors did not stand and shoot the drowning men, as the Germans have so often done. American men are not like that. They saved as many of the German sailors as they could, and got them on board their own boat. And then two of our American sailors jumped into the sea after one of the German men who was drowning. At the risk of their own lives, they saved him.

Why did they do this? Because we were not at war for hate or cruelty. We were at war to stop cruelty and injustice. So long as the enemy is fighting, we must fight him. But when he has surrendered, he is no longer an enemy, he is only a man.

American soldiers and sailors fight for the great country that follows Washington, and Lincoln, and

Wilson. They fight in a navy whose leaders are men like Captain Jack Philip, who said, "Don't cheer boys, the poor fellows are dying."

The German submarine crews were fighting for a country that believed in "frightfulness," a country whose emperor allowed helpless prisoners to be worried by savage dogs. They were fighting under leaders who proclaimed a national holiday for the school-children to celebrate the murder of a thousand innocent men, women, and babies on the Lusitania.

We can all see the difference.

The spirit of our Navy is the spirit of absolute readiness, high courage, and unselfish devotion. There is no cruelty in our brothers in navy blue. They live and die true to the noblest type of American manhood. This is true of the men and of the officers alike.

It is an old naval custom to name each new destroyer for some hero of our history who has done a deed worthy to be so remembered.

A little while ago the Secretary of the Navy was asked to give a name to a new destroyer. This is what he said:—

"I took up first the names of the great admirals, and then the great captains, and all the American heroes of

the sea, and all were worthy. And then I thought of Osmond C. Ingram, second-class gunner's mate on the destroyer Cassin. I thought of the night when he was on watch and saw a U-boat's torpedo headed for his ship. He was standing near the place where the high explosives were stored, and the torpedo was headed for that spot. In a flash he was engaged in hurling overboard those deadly explosives, which would have destroyed the ship if they remained on board, and he managed to get rid of enough of them to save the lives of all the officers and sailors on board, but he lost his own life. So I named the newest and finest addition to the American Navy the Osmond C. Ingram."

The spirit of Osmond Ingram, who gave his life for the life of his comrades, is the spirit of our American Navy.

As a loyal American child, I will give my thanks and love to our brave soldiers of the sea, who give their lives to keep the ocean safe and free. I will lend my money to the Government to build more ships and guns. I will give all I can to the Red Cross, which takes care of our dear men when they are hurt. And I will pray that our Navy may ever be as it has been, brave in battle and merciful in victory.



XXXIV

WHEN the Liberty Bell rang the first time the listening farmboy in New England fields dropped the reins on the neck of his plough-horse and ran for his musket and powder horn. He was the Minute Man, our first American soldier. Strong and brave, honest and kind, he was ready to leave all he loved and knew, on the minute, to defend Liberty.

When the Liberty Bell rang in the greatest of all wars, the boys in America's colleges and fields and

shops, dropped their books and tools and volunteered for service. New Minute Men these were, true to the old type in the new world.

Before America entered the Great War, some of these new American Minute Men were already in France, carrying the wounded to safety, as ambulance drivers. They were fighting in the Foreign Legion, they were flying in the Lafayette Escadrille.

When America entered the War, she said, "Democracy is fighting this war. Ours shall be the army of democracy, all shall serve alike." So our army was an army of universal service.

Our big brothers were all together in the Army of the American Republic. The boy who went to Harvard College was side by side with the boy who went to the University of California. The boy who owned a costly automobile marched beside the boy who drove a truck for a living. The boy whose great-grandmother was a New England Puritan marched beside the boy whose father came from Italy, or Scandinavia, or Russia, or Germany. All together they came, our army of brothers, all true Americans, all fighting under the Star-Spangled Banner to make the world safe for little children.

Straight and slim in American khaki brown, with

the long, easy American stride, these brothers of ours went marching down the home streets away from us. Millions went marching down their camp streets, all over the country. Hundreds of thousands went marching down the docks where the long ships lay waiting to take them across the sea to France.

Every American soldier knew that the German submarines were waiting out there somewhere under the blue water. He knew that the great ship with its thousands and thousands of men might at any moment be shattered and sunk, and that he and his comrades might die a cruel death.

Every American soldier knew that when he reached France he must go into battle against the most powerful and merciless army the world had ever known.

But every American soldier knew what he was there for. He was going across the sea to do God's work in the world, and to die doing it if the need came. So our army of brothers went singing on the great ships across the ocean.

In January, 1918, a German submarine at last caught one of those troop ships, and torpedoed her. It was the troop ship *Tuscania*. Then our brothers showed to the world the spirit of the American Army.

In the dark and bitter cold, with the high seas rag-

ing around them, nearly two thousand men stood on the deck of the sinking ship. They felt her settling, settling, slowly but surely. Through the long minutes they waited for help, remembering the Lusitania, and knowing that if help did not come soon they must surely drown. They saw the crushed bodies of comrades who were hit by the explosion. They heard the moans of dying men. They saw the lifeboats put off in a raging sea that swept them away into death. For hours helpless on the sinking deck they waited for life or death to come up out of the darkness.

And what did they do, as they stood there in the cold and the waiting? They sang! Those splendid brothers of ours in khaki brown stood quietly shoulder to shoulder, and sang their message of courage and faith out into the night!

That was the spirit of our American Army. To stand quietly in the presence of terror, every man taking his chance with the other, and to sing in the presence of death, was the spirit of the New Minute Man.

One of the destroyers was at last able to get side by side with the sinking Tuscania, and all the American soldiers standing there got safely on to the destroyer's deck.

They were saved, but they could not forget the comrades whose lifeless bodies were washed up on the rocky shore next day. They knew then better than before what spirit it was they had gone out to fight against, the spirit of cruelty and stealth that ruled the German Army and used the German submarine.

In this army of ours white men and black men fought for the same cause. The sons of the men who had toiled as slaves in the cotton-fields fought under the same flag as the sons of men who had owned those cotton-fields. It was the Army of the American Union, going out to end a new slavery, and to win a new peace for all men.

Our black men made brave soldiers. The first of them who received the honor of a decoration received it for great courage and skill. Standing all alone on outpost duty, he saw four Germans creeping up to attack a part of his trench. Alone he fought them all off. He killed two and captured one, and the other ran away.

That also was the spirit of our Army. When they fight they fight hard, with keen eyes to see a foe, strong hands to handle a gun, and steady nerves to shoot straight.

One day a company of American engineers was hard at work laying the rails for a piece of track over which the English soldiers could send their supply trains up to the front. It was very near the front trenches. The engineers were working in danger from bursting shells. They had surveyors' instruments with them, and picks, shovels and tools.

Suddenly the Germans attacked. They came running up, firing their rifles, and throwing their hand grenades, and in a moment they were all around the American engineers.

But the American engineers did not surrender. Some of them found guns. The others caught up their pick-axes and shovels, and fought with those. And they fought so well that they beat the Germans back and cleared their own way to the English trenches. There they fought side by side with the English soldiers until the attack was beaten.

To fight hard and never give up was the spirit of our first Minute Men. It is still the spirit of our Army.

One day a company of American soldiers was at rest in a small French village. Most of the men had very little money. Many of them had nothing more than their pay.

Along the dusty road came a poor desolate old woman. She was ragged and thin, and her eyes showed that she had lost her mind.

There was a little shop where some of the American boys were buying sandwiches and hot coffee. They led the old woman into the shop and gave her food. Then one of them who spoke French, talked with her. When he had heard her story he translated it to the other soldiers.

The poor ragged old woman had been the happy mother in a prosperous household in northern France. When the Germans conquered the town, the soldiers had come into her house, had killed her daughter and her husband, and had left her half dead.

A few days later one of her two sons had been killed in battle. Then she had started wandering over the roads, to find the other son. Her mind was quite gone, and she would never stay in any one place, but always wandered away, hoping to find her boy.

When the young man had finished translating, the American soldiers were all crying. They gave the poor mother nearly all the money they had. One boy who had no money gave her a pair of woolen socks, and another gave her his muffler.

That, too, was the spirit of our Army.

The soldiers in our Army and Navy have not only given up their education, their work, their pleasure; they not only offer their lives in the service; but they have given from their little salary to the Red Cross, to the Y.M.C.A., and over and over again to the suffering women and children of northern France.

The spirit of brotherhood, of sacrifice and service, is the spirit of the American Army. And as American children we should know it and be proud of it. Let us say a prayer that our American brothers in khaki brown may ever be worthy of the "General Order" that our American Commander in France, General Pershing, sent to his boys, our American Expeditionary Force:—

"Hardship will be your lot, but trust in God will give you comfort; temptation will befall you, but the teachings of our Saviour will give you strength. Let your valor as a soldier, and your conduct as a man, be an inspiration to your comrades and an honor to your country."



XXXV

THREE are many flags in the world, of many colors. There is one flag that belongs to all nations alike. That flag is a red cross on a white background, the flag of the Red Cross Society. It stands for the love and mercy that came into the world when Jesus died on the cross. It stands for the blood of suffering that is alike in all races, and the purity of mercy that all humanity needs alike.

That flag, like the Stars and Stripes, was made by

a woman, but in a different way from that in which our flag was made by Betsy Ross. For the Red Cross Society was founded by a woman. Its beautiful meaning and holy work grew out of the compassion of a woman's heart.

It is our honor and privilege as American children to belong to the Nation that gave birth to Clara Barton, the founder of the Red Cross.

Clara Barton was a teacher. She was born in the little town of Oxford, Massachusetts. When our Civil War broke out she was a clerk in Washington, but she went into a hospital and became a nurse. She took care of sick and wounded soldiers.

The suffering of soldiers and the grief of their families became to her the most important thing in life. She spent her money and gave her time to the work of finding men who were reported missing. She comforted the sorrowing families, and cared for the sick soldiers wherever she found them.

After the Civil War Miss Barton went to Europe for a rest. But she soon found work waiting for her. War came between France and Germany, a terrible and bloody war. Clara Barton helped the Grand Duchess of Baden arrange hospitals for the care of the soldiers. She followed the German

army and superintended the work of nursing and relief.

In 1881, the American Red Cross Society was formed by her efforts, and she became its President.

Before her death Miss Barton superintended the work of relief in three more great disasters. She took care of the Armenians in 1896, she took care of the Spanish and American soldiers in 1898, and later of the English soldiers in Africa.

What is this association that Clara Barton founded?

It is the great association that makes a business of helping those who need help. It is the mother of lonely children, the nurse of sick soldiers, the kind sister of the poor, the big brother of the weak and helpless. The American Red Cross is the greatest single business organization in the world, and its whole business is helpfulness.

When we take our dimes and dollars to the Red Cross, we send them straight to some one who needs help, some one who is suffering.

Perhaps my dollar went to a little town near the Swiss border, sometime in the year 1918.

A train from Germany pulls into the station. A crowd of women and children stumble off. They are French women and children who have been kept pris-

oners in Germany, and are being sent back to France. They are in rags, they are faint with long hunger, they are pinched and yellow with sickness.

One poor little girl falls on the platform. She is too weak to walk. Quickly a man with a cross on his sleeve lifts her in his arms. He carries her gently to a big motor ambulance with a red cross on its side. The little girl opens her eyes a short time later and finds herself in a soft bed, in a cool, clean room, near other little children in other comfortable beds. A gentle nurse is holding a cup of broth to the hungry little mouth.

Then the little girl is bathed, fed, and comforted. The nurse brings her a dolly to keep for her own. When she is well enough to get up she finds a nice dress and fresh clothes to put on.

My dollar was one of the dollars that paid for the ambulance, the hospital, the broth, and the clothes. Maybe it was the very dollar that paid for the dolly.

Perhaps my dollar went to Paris sometime in the year 1918.

Out in the mud and smoke sixty miles away, one of my American brothers in khaki brown flings up his arms and falls in a crooked heap. He has been shot in the leg. His comrades rush by him. It is their duty to

go forward, to take the German trench. He lies there, in pain, in fear. Will they find him, or must he die slowly alone? He thinks, "Even if they find me, I shall never walk again. I shall be a cripple."

Dusk comes. The American boy is faint, almost unconscious. Suddenly he hears a low voice, an American voice. Strong American arms with a cross on the sleeves lift him to a stretcher. Sturdy American comrades carry him back to the First Aid Station.

A kind American hand gives him food, and medicine to dull the pain, and a Red Cross doctor bandages his wounds.

Presently he is in a motor ambulance with a red cross on the side. By and by he is in a hospital train with a red cross on every car. At last he lies in bed in a hospital in Paris, over which the Red Cross flag flies.

He thinks, "I am alive, but I shall never walk again. My mother will cry."

A great surgeon comes in, a man famous on both sides of the ocean. He says, "It can be done." And he performs a delicate operation that makes the American boy able to walk again. It is an operation that would have cost a thousand dollars in times of peace.

My American brother in khaki brown sits happily on the balcony and looks at beautiful Paris, and he thinks, "I am well! I can walk again. How glad my mother will be!"

My dollar helped to pay for the stretcher, the food and the medicine, the ambulance, the train and the hospital. My dollar helped train the nurse, and all the people who helped. The great surgeon gave his services for love of humanity, but he could not have performed the operation without the things my dollar helped to buy.

Perhaps my dollar went to Italy.

There was a time in the Great War when the armies of Italy gave way before treachery and might together, and the Germans poured into the country, killing and burning as they came. Later the Italians drove them out again with magnificent bravery. But there were terrible weeks when all the people who had lived in the border towns were wanderers on the roads. Mothers with babies in their arms, boys and girls of eight or nine, grandmothers and grandfathers, were tramping the roads like beggars. They had nowhere to sleep, nothing to eat, and no home to go to anywhere.

In less than a week the American Red Cross was

with them. It brought whole freight trains full of food and clothes, and things for those who were ill. It brought money, and best of all, friends. The sad desolate people were taken care of and helped to make new homes.

One day an American Red Cross surgeon in a hospital near the trenches looked at the wounded men who were lying on stretchers, and saw a German prisoner badly hurt amongst them.

The surgeon said, "This man is the worst wounded. I will take him first."

One of the other men said, "He is a German, doctor. Will you put him before us?"

The Red Cross surgeon said, "It is my duty to help first those who need help most. The rest of you are not so seriously wounded."

"That's right," the other men spoke up. "Take the poor chap first."

That was the spirit in which Clara Barton founded the Red Cross. It has always taken care of friend and enemy alike. To the Red Cross a wounded man is not an enemy, but only a suffering human being. The Red Cross stands for human brotherhood. Its shining red and white is a symbol of mercy as wide as the world.

This spirit was one of the hopes of the world when the nations met at The Hague. They all promised to respect the International Red Cross. Germany joined the others in this promise.

But again Germany broke her word. Again and again the German Army fired on stretcher-bearers, and on hospital ambulances, and on hospitals. The Red Cross was plain to see, but it gave no protection against the hatred of Germany.

President Wilson said, speaking about the American Red Cross in New York, in May, 1918, "One of the deepest stains that rests upon the reputation of the Germany Army is that they have not respected the Red Cross. That goes to the root of the matter."

When Germany broke the law of the Red Cross she broke a greater law than any International Law, she violated the principle of human brotherhood.

Human brotherhood is the real meaning of democracy. When we are citizens of the American Republic we belong to an American brotherhood, a democracy which gives equal rights to all its members. As members of the Red Cross, we belong to a universal brotherhood, a greater democracy which gives equal rights to all men.

The Red Cross is the flag of a world-wide democracy, ruled by the spirit of Jesus.

As American children let us all belong to this democracy and reverence its flag with our own, the Red Cross with the Stars and Stripes.



XXXVI

WE know that America is the richest country in the world. She is richest of all in her children. Her mines of gold and iron and coal are not so valuable as the wise and brave men who have carried our country to safety from the time of the colonists to this day. Her fields of cotton, wheat, and fruit are not worth so much as the wise and brave women who have done their part side by side with the men. Her glorious beauty of the land from east to west

is not so fair as the shining ideals she keeps alive in the millions of children in her schools.

What are these ideals? In what image are we American children being formed?

They are the ideals of Washington and Lincoln, of our Army, our Navy, our Red Cross. Our ideal is to speak and act the truth, as persons and as a nation; to fear no man, but to fear to do evil; to protect our own freedom and to give it to all other men everywhere; to be wise and strong, and to use our wisdom and strength, not in selfishness, but in service.

We want all American children to have good health, good sense, good-will. We want them to know the spirit of true democracy, the spirit that was born in our dear country, and is protected by our sacred flag.

As American children let us understand and remember how great is our inheritance, and how sincerely we must try to be worthy heirs of our country.

Let us say, all together, —

I am an American. My country is the freest, the richest, and the most beautiful land on earth.

My Flag is unstained. My Navy is unconquered. My Army defends the freedom of the world.

The faith of America is faith in God and man. She

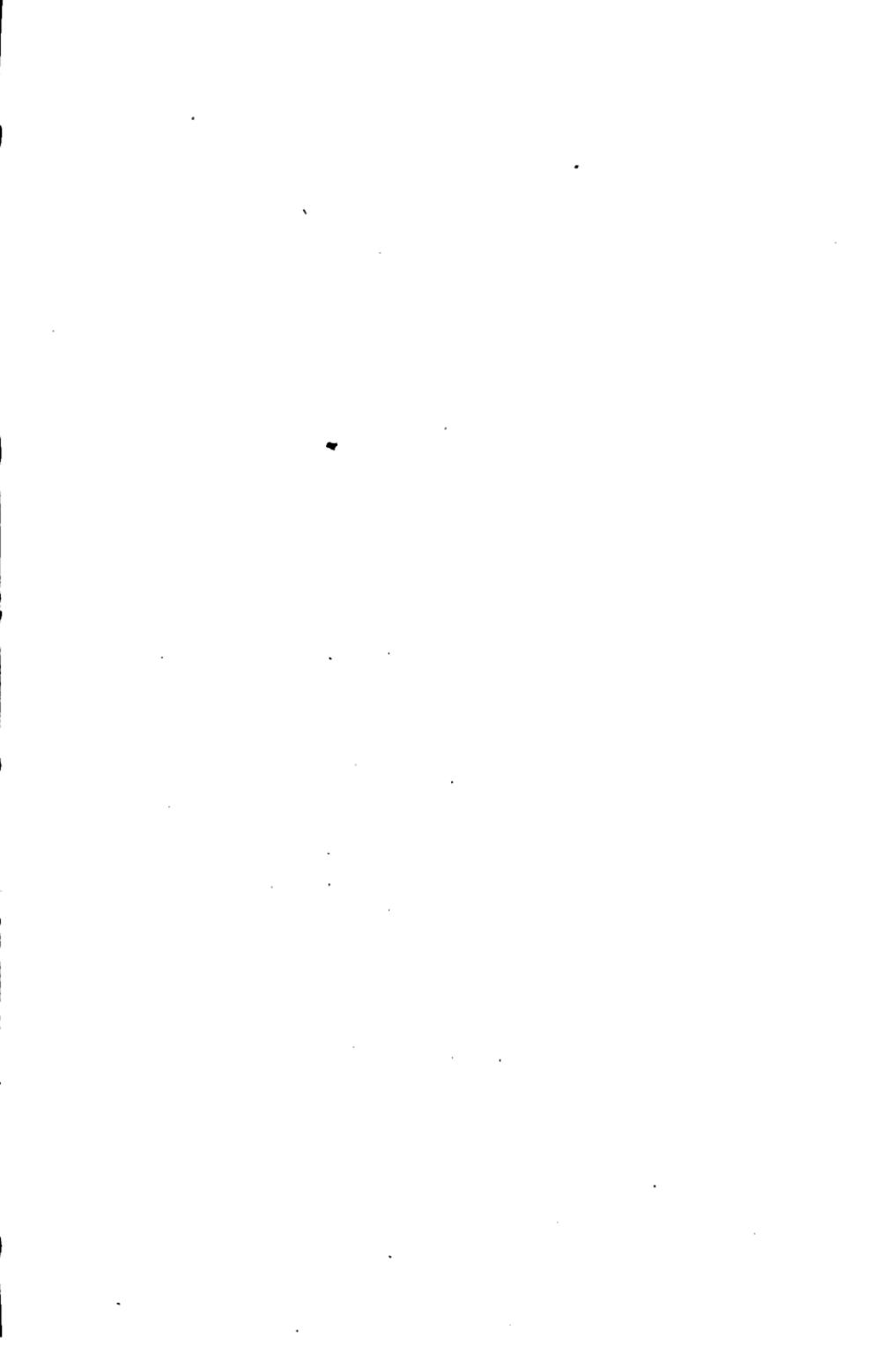
believes in brotherhood and opportunity. She believes in justice and mercy.

America has received from all races. She gives to all races. One bond binds all races together in her citizenship. It is the bond of loyalty. To be an American is to love America; to believe in America; to serve America. To be an American is to live by the American ideals of freedom, honor, and service.

I thank God for the privilege of being a child of America. I pray that I may be worthy of the privilege. With gratitude and high purpose, for service with the heart, hand, and brain,

“I AM AN AMERICAN.”









with them. It brought whole freight trains full of food and clothes, and things for those who were ill. It brought money, and best of all, friends. The sad desolate people were taken care of and helped to make new homes.

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